

Baptist Record

- Uniform: *A source of instruction*
- Life and Work: *Zechariah*
- Bible Book: *The Suffering Servant*

A source of instruction

By Bobby Lee, Tupelo
Psalm 19:7,11; 119:97-105; II Timothy 3:14-17

This theme will be studied in one three-session unit. The study deals with the Bible as a source of divine instruction, a summons to life-changing decision, and a witness to the good news about Jesus.

Psalm 19:7, 11. Is there anything perfect? We know of only one perfect man. That man was Jesus Christ. The psalmist tells us that the law of the Lord is perfect. If there is anything we need in this world of the unpredictable and the imperfect it is the perfect Word of God. If we can't rely upon the Word of God as being perfect, then we don't have much to stand upon. The psalmist tells us that we can depend upon it to convert the soul. He further adds that it is sure. Enough so to make the simple wise. I firmly believe that if we take the Word of God and rely upon it that it will give us the wisdom we need in today's world.

The psalmist tells us that the Bible gives us warning whenever there is danger. And there is the promise of great reward for keeping the words of God.

Psalm 119:97-105. How many of us can say with the psalmist that we love

the Bible and that we meditate on it all the day. Most of us are so busy with the hustle and bustle of the day that we never have time to spend a few quiet minutes letting God speak to us through his Word.

It is not only good, it is necessary to the total well-being of the Christian to spend time in the Word of God. Someone has said, "The Bible is the most owned and the least known of all the books." I have spent a great deal of time in trying to master the Bible. But the older I get and the more I think about it, I don't need to master the Bible as much as I need to let the Bible master me. If we as Christians would be sincere enough to take the Bible and read it and let God speak his message to us through it, our lives would be truly blessed.

There is power in the simple old-fashioned reading of the Word of God. Power that I cannot explain.

The psalmist said he knew more than his teachers and the wise old men because he depended upon God's Word. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." How many have found the solution to problems in the world, and direction

in life by relying upon the Word of God. But many today are tossing aside the "road map" of life in exchange for the things that human effort can achieve. Many an old saint of God can testify that when everything was gone there was the Bible that was an anchor for troubled times.

II Timothy 3:14-17. Paul says to Timothy that he has "known the holy scriptures from a child." It is a sad, sad commentary on our way of life that our children do not know the scriptures from childhood.

Paul says that "all scripture" has been given by God. Not just parts of it, but all of it. And he says that it is profitable for us. God desires our best. And one of the best things that we can do is to learn as much of the Holy Scripture as we possibly can. We don't have to become theologians. We can be of great service to God if we simply and humbly take the Bible for what it says and believe it and most of all live by it.

The most blessed of Christians have been those who have stood upon the Word of God with complete trust that it came from God.

Zechariah

By Charles E. Myers, Jackson
Luke 1:5, 11-16, 76-79

Christmas has always been my very favorite time of the year. I still get just as excited as I did when I was a little boy. My whole year reached its peak at Christmas. I am glad we can spend the month of December pointing to Christmas in our Sunday school lessons. There are many people who miss the message of Christmas because they get lost in the commercial aspects of the season.

Some major entirely upon material gifts and see nothing else. Some see it as a time to increase their profits and see it entirely as a money making scheme. Some are required to work longer hours to meet the demands of the public and resent the inconveniences of the season. Some spend a lot more than they should and carry over into the next year a bitterness over their debts.

Others talk about the "baby Jesus" and except for getting a little sentimental never relate in any way to him. The vast majority of people fail to see the birth of Christ as a part of the eternal redemptive plan of God, a plan to provide Salvation forgiveness and the wholeness of life to people. We often get lost in some superficial excitement and fail to realize that the cross was as much a part of that plan as was the birth. Let's spend these weeks of study preparing ourselves to see Christmas in all of its fullness as God meant it to be.

Everything God did from the time

Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden was leading up to the coming of the Messiah. The final event before his actual coming was the sending of one called a forerunner, one sent before to announce his coming. Zechariah was a faithful priest serving in Jerusalem. He had come from a family of priests and his wife was the daughter of a priest. There is no question but that they were fine people, loyal to God and to the Jewish religion. There were many priests who served in the temple. In fact, the number was so large that each group served only two weeks during an entire year and many of those serving never had the opportunity of making the incense offering. In this service, while the sacrificial animal burned outside, the priest went inside alone and poured incense on the altar in the holy place. The priest offered a prayer for the people and the smoke from the altar symbolically carried the prayer toward God. The people waited outside and when the priest had finished he went back outside and finished the service by praying a prayer of benediction for the people.

In the providence of God, Zechariah was chosen as priest for the day and entered inside to make the incense offering. Suddenly an angel stood before him. Naturally he was afraid and sought to escape by hiding his face just like we would have done. The angel spoke softly to him, telling him not to worry, he had nothing to

be afraid of. He told him God had heard his prayer and the prayers of his predecessors and was going to answer those prayers. He would begin by giving a son to Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. He was to be called John, which certainly was not a family name, and he was to be raised as a Nazarite, one who was never to touch wine or any strong drink. From the very beginning he would be filled with the Holy Spirit and would be used of God to turn Israel toward him. He would be great in the eyes of the Lord and the cause of great rejoicing on the part of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Zechariah was astounded at what he heard but he questioned the angel. Elizabeth was far past the age of child bearing. How could a thing like this happen under those circumstances? The angel identified himself as Gabriel and told Zechariah that as a sign of the validity of the promise, he would be unable to speak until after the birth of the baby. The angel left and when Zechariah could not pronounce a benediction for the people, they assumed he had seen a vision. And how right they were!

By writing about his experience he shared it with his wife and they waited for the arrival of the child. Through all these months Zechariah was unable to speak, a constant reminder of his lack of faith. Finally the baby was born and at the time of his circumcision the people wanted to name him after his father but

Isaiah spoke of one who was to appear one day as God's servant-king to restore Israel and to bring light to the Gentiles (chapter 49). Verse one tells us that he was called into existence as an extension of God, as God's "sharp arrow" (49:2) held in readiness for battle against the enemy.

This king was commissioned to restore his people to a right relationship with God (49:5), and beyond that, to restore through Israel all the nations of the world (49:6). His purpose was salvation.

His ministry was to be universal. Its impact was to be so mighty that "Kings shall stand at attention when you (the Messiah) pass by; princes shall bow low because the Lord has chosen you..." (49:7). The rulers of the earth will do him homage when they understand God's plan for the world.

Isaiah predicted that the Israelites, during the exile, would cry, "My Lord deserted us; He has forgotten us" (49:14). Having lost everything would cause most people to despair, but God promised that he would no more forsake them than "a mother forget her little child and not have love for her own son" (49:15). Instead, God would "see that right prevails" (51:4), that his people would return from their exile (49:12), that their enemies would become their slaves (49:18), and that God of Israel would reign (52:7).

All this would be accomplished by a King who had the power to "turn the tables." What an image the Israelites must have formulated in their minds as they heard Isaiah forecasting their victory. Only a pitiful few believed what Isaiah said (53:1).

Who in his right mind would listen to such nonsense (53:1)? Isaiah was equating incredible power with a King

Elizabeth insisted he be named John.

The people turned to Zechariah hoping he would overrule his wife. Taking a writing tablet he wrote, "His name shall be called John." At that point his tongue was loosed and he began to praise God and give expression to all those feelings that had been bottled up inside for these past nine months. He used a number of Old Testament phrases to explain that God was to use this child to go before and herald the birth of the long awaited Messiah who would deliver Israel from her sin. And John, who became known as John the Baptist, did just that.

The whole experience was part of God's preparation for the coming of Christ. And his coming was to provide salvation for those who believe. Now here we are preparing once again to celebrate that birth. What does that mean to us? What a time of rejoicing it should be! Do not let something or things mess up your Christmas season. God gave his only son for us. Let's prepare to celebrate his birth in a way worthy of such an expression of love.

who was anything but kingly.

Isaiah was telling them that their hopes and dreams lay in hands of a man who was most unlike what they thought a king should be. They wanted someone who performed as ostentatiously as worldly kings do, but Isaiah spoke of one who "in our eyes there was no attractiveness at all, nothing to make us want him" (53:2). Instead of being a highly respected monarch, he would be "despised and rejected" — "a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief" (53:3). He would be scorned but no one would care.

Their king would be "beaten and bloodied" (52:15) to the point of disfigurement, but at the same time through his suffering, the world would be overwhelmed by the accomplishments of one who in man's eyes showed so little promise.

Perhaps we shouldn't cast stones too quickly at the Israelites as they tried to understand what is to us a not easily understood gift of God. Atonement, the reconciliation of God and man through Christ's sacrificial death, causes modern minds to wonder, despite our benefit of New Testament teachings.

His life would consist of countless misunderstandings of his purpose, but he would not be forgotten because one day, people would see and understand that of which they were ignorant while he was here.

He certainly was not one of the "beautiful people" of his day and he led a life that was certainly out-of-step with what was considered vogue. But, despite his lowly background, his life of rejection, he is strangely remembered through generations of forgotten earthly kings and princes.

His power lies not in the pomp and circumstance that we so enjoy, but in his role as a suffering servant for mankind.

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What's Inside
Editorials, Page 2
Footprints on a Windswept Desert,
Page 6
Revised budget, MBCB, Page 5

The Baptist Record

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Cameroon woman 'reads' by memory

NEW YORK, NY (ABS) — You don't need eyes to read. In Gadjiwan, Cameroon there is a woman who "reads" God's Word purely through memory, the American Bible Society has learned.

She was never able to master the written word the way most of us do, not even with the help of the Bible Society's New Reader graded Scripture series in Pere, the Bantu tribal language she speaks.

But she knows the Bible stories by heart. As someone turns the pages she "reads" them to others. There are many who gather round and listen, following the pictures in the Scripture booklets.

In fact, the woman of Gadjiwan has become a Scripture evangelist among her own people.

New Reader Scriptures in Pere, published by partners of the American Bible Society in Cameroon, were partially underwritten by American believers in the Bible cause.

They are part of a special series of easily read Scriptures now available in over 400 languages and used in just about every part of the world.



Peeling out the Good News

This painting by Fadeh Ramadan, son of a Baptist pastor, decorates a window of Tur'an Baptist Church in Israel. Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering help support a continuing witness in the land of Jesus' birth. (See related photos and story, page 8.) (FMB) PHOTO By Don Rutledge.

New church caters to 'single hearted'

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)—God never intended for the word "single" to mean left out, said Don E. Lane, founding pastor of the Single Hearted Church.

But Lane has found churches often unwittingly cater to families, while single members of congregations are left to fend for themselves.

Lane hopes to remedy this saga of neglect with the Sept. 2 opening of the Single Hearted Church, Anchorage's first church designed specifically with singles in mind.

The singles' church is the brainchild of Muldoon Denali Baptist Church officials, Lane said. He added the singles' church will meet for worship at the Muldoon Denali Baptist Church complex at 382 Muldoon Road.

Although many Anchorage churches have special programs for singles, Lane said this will be the first church singles can call their own.

"Within six months, we hope to have 100 singles who regularly worship at the Single Hearted Church," Lane said. "We believe the church will be self-supporting by then."

Lane, 32, who until four weeks ago worked as the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Caddo Mills, Texas,

said Sunday school classes are scheduled for 9:45 a.m. Sundays and worship services for 5 p.m. Sundays at the singles' church.

The new church also will offer singles the chance to participate in weekly Bible study, group fellowships, choirs and dramas, he said. A nursery will be provided at all services.

"The Muldoon Denali Baptist Church has about 35 single members who will begin attending the new church when it opens," Lane said. "We think by setting worship services for 5 p.m. Sundays, we will draw singles from other congregations about town."

Besides a pastor, the church will have its own music director, choir and ushers, he said.

"Although singles have the same basic spiritual needs as married Christians, they have altogether different lifestyles," he said, adding with a laugh. "I won't be preaching many sermons on marriage enrichment."

He said he hopes the opening of the church will allow singles to become one another's family, and that members will be able to help each other with practical matters.

25¢ worth of fishing line, for sewing up people

By Marty Croll

Al Hood is a schooled, experienced surgeon, but give him fishing line for stitching and a pair of eyes for diagnosing any day.

Hood has been cutting and sewing on patients at the Baptist hospital in Bangkla, Thailand, for 16 years. He operates by faith, not in disdain of man's modern technology, but in concern for the people to whom he has been called to minister.

In Thailand many people earn only \$1 a day. "So we have to economize," says Hood.

"We discovered a long time ago that you could sew up people with nylon fishing line. I found I can close 100 bellies with 25 cents of it."

And Hood wouldn't have an electronic CAT scan. "I've got something better for where God has put me. I am not saying you don't need (the scan), but God has given us what I call the EBS — the eyeball scan."

Hood doesn't hide his wonder for how God has used this farm boy from Wayne County, N.C., halfway across the globe. "I would never have gone to Thailand if I thought I was going on my own," he says.

"I have done many operations I have never seen before, but I don't tell the patients that.

"I just pray, and I get the book and read it and pray some more. The Lord is always with us."

One time he was stumped in finding the origin of a blood leak from a woman's abdomen.

"I prayed, and as if the Lord had said to me, 'Sit down,' I sat down. I began to look, and found it.

"I found a tiny old thing smaller than a green pea. I

don't know how you would have ever found it with usual techniques. We found it through prayer."

Hood climbs out of bed about 8 a.m. and eats breakfast with his family before a short devotional. Then he rides his bicycle to the hospital about a mile away.

He and the other three doctors begin making rounds at 7 a.m. Every day is a long one, and Hood goes to bed knowing that not him, "but the Lord in him," powers his body to accomplish what is done.

Hood, 51, credits his parents with molding his life. At age 9, he came to know Christ. "I became aware that God was speaking to me," he says.

Hood felt reasonably secure until age 14 thinking missions didn't really fit into his plan to be a doctor. Then a revival speaker talked of medicine on the mission field, and he yielded his life for foreign mission service.

He has much praise for his wife, Olga, who worked while he went to medical school. "She is an enabler," he says. "She enables her children and her husband to be at their best."

Hood and his wife took four children to Bangkla 16 years ago and haven't moved since. Jenny, now 11, was born on the field. Their other children are in the States.

Hood uses time he's not with his family or at the hospital to meet people and make friends for Christ.

Building friendships this way allows him to witness just by being there. For example, over the years he has come to know a businessman in the marketplace through buying household repair items. Recently the man told Hood how his viewpoint of him and Baptists has changed.

"We were very suspicious of you people when you

first came," Hood quotes the man as saying. "But now we have learned to accept you and love you."

The man said he would never convert from his traditional religion, but he wouldn't mind if his children decided to.

Hood also feels the responsibility to witness at the hospital, and he grabs every opportunity he has to do so.

"I've had people say to me, 'Al, you don't have to witness. That's the job of an evangelist.'

"That's a bunch of bologna. I believe that every one of us who knows Jesus Christ has something so wonderful in our hearts that we can't keep quiet about it."

Hood can't think of another thing he's rather do than mission work in Thailand. He feels very heavily the responsibility of doing what God wants him to. In God's

will he finds peace and sheer excitement.

"When I was finished up my surgical training, the man who taught the most about surgery looked at me and said, 'Al, are you really going to Thailand?' And I said, 'Yes, sir.' He said, 'You're crazy.'

"And that's not the last time I was told I was crazy. But if I'm crazy, I'm certainly enjoying my insanity."

Marty Croll writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



Al Hood

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Help for the children

A number of years ago, Mississippi Baptists determined among themselves to establish an institution to care for orphan children. Over the years since that time, the circumstances of the needs have varied; but Mississippi Baptists have continued to support the institution with at least enough money to keep the ministry operating.

The needs have changed. There are few orphans any more, but there are many children with truly burdensome needs who are looking to Mississippi Baptists for their well-being. They are neglected and dependent children who have nowhere else to turn. In fact, in many instances they felt they had no place to turn and were guided to the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village by someone else.

They need help.

Suddenly and inexplicably, according to Children's Village officials, the support that had been continuing to be a dependable source of sustenance has lost some of its strength. For an agency that has always been having to use all of its resources in order to take care of its charges, a slack period in giving has caused a serious cash flow problem at the Village, according to Paul Nunnery, executive director. He told the Baptist Record last week that at that time the Village was \$180,000 below minimum requirements in income. During the state convention a few weeks ago he mentioned to the messengers that the Village had found it necessary to borrow money to keep its doors open.

The Children's Village approaches the churches for fund raising only once during the year, according to agreed upon procedures. This is at Mother's Day. There are three other

special offerings that are promoted otherwise. These are an Easter offering, a back to school offering, and a holiday offering. The latter offering is around Christmastime.

The Village sort of exists from offering to offering, Nunnery said, but each of the offerings in recent months has not come up to expectations. Now the Village needs extra cash to keep it going until the holiday offering comes in. Then the income from the holiday offering, hopefully, will keep the Village going until the Mother's Day offering is available. He said that from the time the current fiscal year began on July 1 until the middle of September it became apparent that there was trouble and that the available source of money would not suffice until Christmas.

The situation, hopefully, is temporary; but it is severe, Nunnery said. Right now, however, "we are asking for survival," he noted. "This is not for growth, for the endowment campaign, or for expansion in any way." He continued to say that every dime is audited and even a cutback in services or a change in philosophy

would not help substantially. Certain expenses are on-going regardless of the number of children cared for or the number of campuses involved. "If we closed every facility but our Jackson campus, we would save only 15 percent in operating costs," he said. That would not take care of the needs.

The problems of this time were not envisioned by the founders of the Village, Nunnery declares. The children are older and providing help for them is more expensive than when the work began. In a recent issue of "The Village View," which runs monthly as the Village publication through an advertising arrangement in the Baptist Record, several monthly bills were detailed. Food service was listed at \$12,000 per month, medical and dental expenses were listed at \$5,200; taxes, \$4,000; debt service, \$13,500; utilities, \$14,200; and insurance, \$12,000.

The Village will not accept government grants, Nunnery declared. They are available for the asking, but it is felt that they are contrary to Baptist interests, he noted. As recently as Oc-

tober of this year, the Village board of trustees has reaffirmed this position.

"We are looking to the churches and individuals for voluntary support of this ministry to dependent and

neglected children who have no other source of help," he said. "We have always felt that if Baptist people are given the facts, they will rise to the occasion," he concluded.



Sesquicentennial in 1985

At the 1985 Mississippi Baptist Convention next November the convention will observe the 150th anniversary of its establishment. The committee on order of business for the convention has already gone to work on the program. It should be, and no doubt will be, one that is fitting for the occasion.

The committee has indicated that it will welcome suggestions for this sesquicentennial observance. As was noted in the Baptist Record a couple of weeks ago, the committee members would appreciate suggestions for a scripture passage to use for a theme, and they are also interested

in developing a slogan for this time. Any suggestions for a program emphasis also would be welcomed.

Larry Kennedy, pastor of First Church, Laurel, is chairman of the committee on order of business. Suggestions may be mailed to him at the church or to the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Other members of the committee are George McFadin, Horn Lake; Gordon H. Sansing, Vicksburg; J. W. Brister, Jackson; Ronnie Massey, Meridian; and Mrs. James Yates, Yazoo City.

Guest opinion . . .

Crimes against church property

By Chester Leland Quarles
Continued from November 15

Many crime prevention tenets from business loss prevention programs are applicable in church environs. In 7-11 Stores, criminologists have discovered that store clerks who are friendly and greet shoppers with a smile are victimized less. In being friendly and looking the customer in the eye, the clerk increases the apprehension by the criminal that he may be identified in the future. At the same time, the friendly clerk creates the ideal environment for the casual purchase by ethical shoppers.

The church that has an active usher program is likewise a more successful church both spiritually and in preventing crime on its premises. Members and visiting worshippers are made to feel at home and are made welcome. Usher teams can also be located at remote entrances, parking lots, and exits to church properties. If it seems appropriate, these men can be provided with low cost CB walkie-talkie radios for communication purposes.

Many churches provide "umbrella committees" of ushers during inclement weather at parking lots and

passenger drop locations. Services like these before, during, and after worship periods increase crime prevention vigilance. They increase the probability that a thief, an automobile larcenist, or even a rapist or child molester may be recognized and later identified for police purposes.

These usher or deacon patrol services should be very friendly but very vigilant. Even in inner city areas where armed private security personnel maintain control of church parking lots and walkways, the environment should be friendly, helpful, cooperative, and positive. The total emphasis should be focused on the ability to concentrate on spiritual matters in a crime-free environment and to truly worship our Lord.

In the large urban church it may well be appropriate to maintain a deacon or usher "watch" program within the buildings associated with the church complex. The writer heard recently of a church organist who was to accompany a soloist on the piano. She walked out an exit adjacent to the organ on to a hallway located behind

the sanctuary. As she made this movement during the service, she observed a thief in the choir room. She summoned assistance after locking the thief in the room.

The President's Commission on Law Enforcement (1967) defined crime as an "opportunity taken by an individual when he believes the action will benefit him." Seven percent of our Mississippi State prison population are now women; so females, too, may be actively involved in church theft. With the exception of criminals involved in crimes of passion, most offenders are involved in economic offenses.

As are some offenders, they may be perceived simply as businessmen involved in crime. They want a high profit with little risk! Theft is not normally a viable option in a well-lit, highly visible area that is patrolled by ushers, deacons, or security officers.

For securing the vacated church at night and during non-office hours or during worship services, church leaders may want to consider fire alarms throughout the church complex and burglary protection in of-

fices and areas where valuables are located. Closed circuit television units may aid in protection of churches, kindergartens, and parking areas just as they are used in most hospital facilities, industry, and many related businesses to prevent crime.

Whether a vigilant, friendly welcome and umbrella committee is used or whether improved lighting is installed or hi-tech alarms or CCTV, the leaders of churches today should have a plan. Not only should they have a plan for protection and safety reasons, but also to avoid vicarious negligence liability lawsuits under many circumstances.

We should not wait until a car is stolen from the church, a worshipper robbed, or a child molester attempts to corrupt before we take positive and appropriate action. Action planning is absolutely necessary. Stewardship is a concept that includes the obligation to protect what is there (people and property) as well as to bring in tithes and offerings.

Neighborhood watch programs are a good example of crime prevention (Continued on page 4)

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New officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are, left to right, Bartis Harper, pastor of Tylertown Church, Tylertown, vice-president; Ed Gandy, pastor, First Church, Kosciusko, president; and Mrs. Elise Curtis, Gulfport, secretary.

Executive Committee okays new computer

The new Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee approved the purchase of a new computer system for the Baptist Building during its initial meeting last week after being elected by the Convention Board.

The new system, an IBM System 38, will be phased in over an extended period in order not to interrupt the functions that are carried out on the present computer on a daily basis. The cost of the new system will be \$319,500, which is to be paid out of interest earnings. It will replace an IBM system 34, which, according to a spokesman, has about reached the limit of its capabilities. There is no foreseeable limit to the capability of the System 38, it was pointed out.

The old System 34 will be transported to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly to make operations there more efficient, or it will be sold and a smaller computer purchased to be used there, whichever proves to be more feasible.

Prior to the Executive Committee meeting the Convention Board re-elected Ed Gandy, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko, as president. Bartis Harper, pastor of Tylertown Church, Tylertown, was named vice-president; and Mrs. Elise Curtis of Gulfport was re-elected secretary. These three officers are automatically members of the Executive Committee. The Convention Board also elected the 12 other members of the Executive Committee. They are Tom McCurley of West Point, Nathan Barber of Bay St. Louis, Ingram Foster of Prentiss, Larry Kennedy of Laurel, James Ruffin of Meridian, Eddie Hamilton of Carthage, Powell Ogletree of Hattiesburg, Jerry Mixon of Winona, Marvin Bond of Starkville, Milton Koon of Booneville, James Lewis of Blue Mountain, and Jimmy Porter of Louisville. Foster, Ogletree, and Bond are laymen, though Bond has served as missionary to Hong Kong. The other Executive Committee members are pastors. Foster has been a vice-president of the state convention.

Subsequently Hamilton was elected chairman of the Executive Committee. Ruffin was elected as vice-chairman, and Mrs. Curtis was re-elected as secretary.

In other actions the Executive Committee approved two additional

counselors for the Convention Board's counseling ministry for ministers and their families. The two are George Richard Stevens of Tupelo and Clarence Thurman of Hattiesburg.

For ministers and their families who seek counseling, the Convention Board will pay approved counselors \$20 per hour during 1985, the same as is being paid in 1984. The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the Board's church-minister relations and annuity advisory committee that in cases of forced termination those ministers who seek counseling will have their fee of \$35 per hour paid with the understanding that the amount will be the total fee.

The Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention presented its 1985 budget allocations to the Convention Board last week during its organizational meeting. The total basic budget for Christian education in 1985 is \$3,727,400. Of this amount, \$500,000 is scheduled for capital needs. The operational part of the budget is \$3,227,400. This is to be divided 30 percent, or \$968,220, for administration; 50 percent, or \$1,613,700, for instruction; 10 percent, or \$322,740, for graduate studies; nine percent, or \$290,466, for ministerial education; and one percent, or \$32,274, for expenses of the Education Commission. The \$500,000 capital needs funds for 1985 will be distributed by dividing \$133,000 equally among the colleges. The remaining \$367,000 will be divided according to the full-time equivalent students.

Under the formula adopted for distribution of the operating funds, Blue Mountain would get \$412,526, or \$1,442 per full-time equivalent student; Clarke would get \$284,884, or \$1,899 per full-time equivalent; Mississippi College would get \$1,561,028, or \$639 per FTE; and William Carey would get \$936,688, or \$660 per FTE.

The reason for the differences in cost per full-time equivalent is that the 30 percent administration portion of the budget is to be divided equally between the three colleges with each getting \$261,419 in that area and Clarke, now a division of Mississippi College, participating in that fund on a decreasing scale with \$183,963 being budgeted for 1985. The decreasing scale for Clarke began to go into ef-

(Continued on page 4)

The Baptist Record

Baptist leaders join plea for famine response

WASHINGTON (BP)—Six Southern Baptist Convention officials have signed a statement urging the mobilization of an emergency U.S. airlift of food and transportation equipment to Ethiopia and other beleaguered African nations where millions face severe food shortages and starvation.

The airlift is one of several actions proposed in a statement to President Reagan and Congress signed by leaders of more than 55 national religious bodies and agencies. The statement was released Nov. 29 in a series of news conferences around the country.

Southern Baptists signees were James Dunn, executive director-treasurer, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Foy Valentine, executive director, and David Lockard, director of organization, Christian Life Commission; and Keith Parks, president, Bill O'Brien, executive vice-president, and John Cheyne,

human needs ministries consultant, Foreign Mission Board.

The statement of concern originated in an October meeting of representatives of national church bodies, private Christian voluntary organizations and hunger relief and mission agencies. The meeting was convened by Bread for the World, a national Christian citizen's movement which lobbies for anti-hunger legislation and policies. Dunn of the Baptist Joint Committee serves as BFW president.

Despite highly-publicized American response in recent weeks, the statement expressed concern "that three years after the onset of the drought, assistance still has not reached the majority of the seven million facing starvation in Ethiopia or many of the 150 million people suffering in all of sub-Saharan Africa."

Many hunger experts believe an airlift is crucial because food already approved by the U.S. government for

Ethiopia and other African nations will not arrive until the end of the year. By that time, they argue, millions of additional lives will be lost.

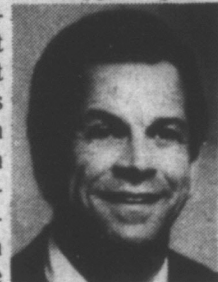
The statement also suggested food now designated for other areas with less critical hunger needs to be redirected immediately to Africa and replaced later.

Southern Baptists, through gifts to the Foreign Mission Board's hunger relief fund, have sent \$50,000 to Ethiopia for famine relief. Cheyne visited that country in late November

(Continued on page 4)

Education body names chairman

Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, was elected chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission when that group met last week to adopt its recommendation to the Convention Board for allocation of the Christian Education portion of the Mississippi Baptist Convention budget.



Henderson

He succeeded Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, who rotated off of the commission. In the absence of Henderson for the Board meeting the next day, Tuten made the budget presentation.

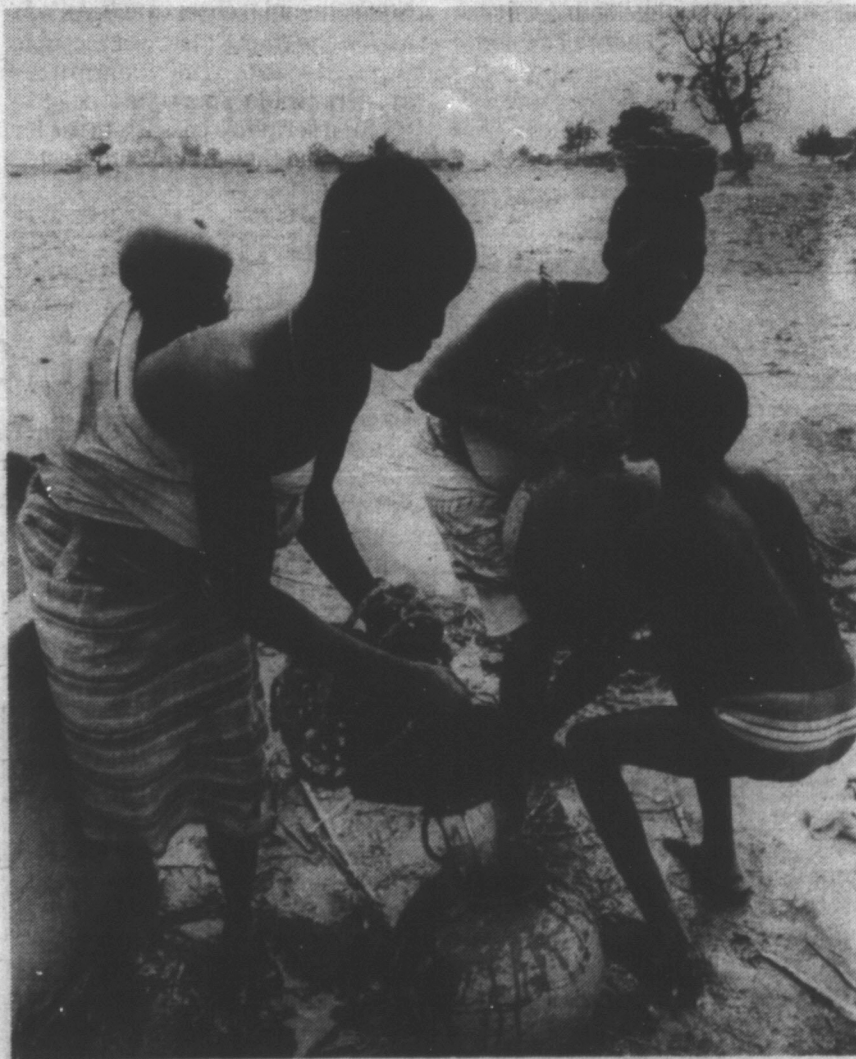
The commission presented a plaque to Tuten for his 12 years of service on the commission and passed a resolution in appreciation for his service. The commission also expressed appreciation to A. J. Comfort of Brandon for his service as secretary of the commission.

Hines Cronin, Superintendent of the Moss Point Municipal Separate School District, was elected vice-chairman of the commission. Robert Upchurch, a Tupelo attorney, was elected secretary.

The resolution commending Tuten noted that his leadership had been exemplary, that under his leadership the committee had addressed numerous complex issues, that he had exhibited a commitment of the highest dimension in support of Christian education, and that his vision of financial support for Christian higher education had been translated into adoption by the convention.

The commission resolved that "the membership of the Education Commission expressed its profound ap-

(Continued on page 4)



WATER FOR A THIRSTY LAND — Unlike women in many parts of Africa today, these women in Burkina Faso (Upper Volta) are able to fill their jars from a well of clean water. They live in a village touched by a major rural development project carried out by the Foreign Mission Board, Tennessee Baptists, and Baptist missionaries and church members in the West African country. Although their country has been hit by the same drought that has afflicted much of Africa, people in the project area have been able to manage better than many Africans because of the Baptist development project. A new dam and many new wells make water accessible even during drought. Southern Baptists will continue to support development there by supporting missionaries like agriculturalist Larry Cox, a Mississippian, with gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program. (FMB) PHOTO BY Joanna Pinneo.

ACTS schedules 17 Christmas specials

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — Seventeen upcoming Christmas specials on the American Christian Television System will help remind viewers of the true spirit of the holidays.

Beginning Monday, Dec. 17, ACTS will pre-empt much of its regular family entertainment programming to carry the seasonal specials. Most will be repeated during a two-week period.

Highlighting the list of specials is "Truce in the Forest," an award-winning one-hour true drama about German and American soldiers during World War II who both seek shelter in a secluded cabin and find a moment of peace when they lay down their weapons long enough to celebrate Christmas.

"Truce in the Forest" will be shown Dec. 18 at 11 p.m., Dec. 19 at 3 a.m. and 9 a.m., Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. and Dec.

21 at 4 a.m. and 10 a.m.

"No Escape from Christmas" is a half-hour drama about a couple's attempt to fight the bitterness that follows the loss of their only child. It will be carried on ACTS Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 19 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"The Other Wise Man" is an adaptation of Henry Van Dyke's fictional account of a fourth wise man who misses his audience with the Christ child in order to help a person in need. The half-hour special will be shown Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Rounding out ACTS' Christmas schedule are other costume and contemporary dramas, as well as musical and animated specials. In all, 64 special Christmas broadcasts will be carried over the network.

Social Security taxes up for ministers, churches

DALLAS (BP) — Social Security benefits will increase next year, but taxes will be higher for churches and ministers.

Approximately 37 million beneficiaries will see their monthly Social Security checks increase about \$15 a month, and another four million Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients will receive a 3.5 percent increase in their checks.

A report by the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., said the average monthly Social Security check will increase from \$434 to \$449 in 1985, while those persons on SSI will have benefits increased from \$314 to \$325. A couple's average monthly check will increase from \$750 to \$776 if both individuals are drawing benefits.

Social Security benefits are increas-

ed if the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers rises 3.0 percent or more from the third quarter of one year to the third quarter of the following year. The CPI rose 3.5 percent from October 1983 to October 1984.

But while the benefits are set to increase so will the maximum wage base and tax rates.

The maximum amount of annual earnings subject to Social Security tax will increase from \$37,800 to \$39,600.

The maximum self-employment tax for ordained ministers will increase by \$401.40 to \$4,672.80 in 1985. This figure represents both the wage base increase and an increase in the effective tax rate from this year's 11.3 percent to 11.8 percent in 1985. The increase is a continuation of a 1983 law which raised the tax rate for self-employed persons to 14.1 percent. A 2.3 percent tax credit was included for 1985.

The tax rate paid by employees and employers will each increase to 7.05 percent. Employees paid 6.7 percent and employers paid 7.0 percent in 1984.

The report said the maximum Social Security tax paid by employees in 1985 will be increased by \$259.50 to \$2,791.80. The maximum tax paid by employers on a worker's earnings will rise by \$145.80 to \$2,791.80.

A 1983 law made all churches subject to Social Security taxes last Jan. 1. Unless a church has filed for an exemption, it must pay the employer share of the tax and deduct the employee share from the wages of non-ordained members on the church staff. Ordained ministers must continue to pay self-employment tax.

Off the Record

A second grader recited for the teacher the story of David using a slingshot to kill the giant Goliath.

"What does that teach us?" the teacher asked.

The boy replied, "Duck."

Plea for famine response

(Continued from page 3)

to discuss with missionaries additional ways to help with famine relief despite a small mission staff and other limitations.

The FMB has spent more than \$3 million for African relief and development during 1984 and anticipates spending another \$3 million in 1985, according to Cheyne.

In addition to the proposed airlift, the statement of concern called for "bold and sacrificial legislation to provide not only funds to feed affected people but policies which allow the African nations to develop, through aid and trade, to their fullest potential."

The first step, the statement suggested, would be early passage in January of a comprehensive Africa relief and recovery funding package for 1985. H. R. 6203, a bill supported by Bread for the World and other anti-hunger groups, died in the last session of Congress. It would have provided \$450 million in food and non-food assistance to 28 African nations.

The statement urged President Reagan to form immediately a task force of Congressional, administration, religious and relief leaders to observe the African crisis firsthand and then to develop a comprehensive plan of action that would address chronic and structural problems as well as immediate food needs.

"The time is now," the statement concludes, "for our nation, with all its rich blessing, to work with other nations to end the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Africa."

Education body names chairman

(Continued from page 3)

preciation to Dr. Joe H. Tuten for his vision, leadership, and untiring dedication to the cause of Christian Higher Education." Copies of the resolution were sent to Charles Pickering, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Convention Board; and to Don McGregor, editor of the Baptist Record.

The resolution was signed by all of the commission members.

Jews now a minority in Galilee

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL (EP) — A recent census report from Israel showed that Jews were a minority group in Christ's home district of Galilee. While the Jewish population had never been large in that area it was thought to be a majority until a recent computer survey indicated otherwise.

A spokesman for the Central Bureau of Statistics said that the population shift in Galilee was the higher birth rate of the largely Arab non-Jewish community there, and the large movement of Jews to other parts of Israel.



New officers of the Executive Committee of the Convention Board are, left to right, James Ruffin, pastor, Poplar Springs Avenue Church, Meridian, vice-chairman; Ed-die Hamilton, pastor, First Church, Carthage, chairman; and Mrs. Elise Curtis, Gulfport, secretary.

Executive committee okays new computer

(Continued from page 3)

fect in 1984 with that institution getting 22 percent as the others got 26 percent. For 1985 Clarke will get 19 percent and the others will get 27 percent. This will continue until 1990, when Clarke will be phased out completely, and the other schools will get 33 1/2 percent each.

Clarke will get an equal portion of the \$133,000 of capital needs funds that will be divided equally among the schools. The four will get \$33,250 each. Then based on full-time equivalent students, Blue Mountain will get \$24,589, Clarke will get \$12,845, Mississippi College will get \$208,823, and William Carey will get \$120,743.

Before the close of the Convention Board meeting, Harper, the chairman of the committee on board organization, announced committee assignments. They were as follows:

Budget and Cooperative Program Promotion — Larry Otis, chairman; Bond; Harper; Julia Kelly; Donnie Stewart; and Schuyler Batson.

New church expansion — Grady Collins, chairman; Billy Guest; Hamilton; Charles Holifield; Paul Wilson; and Gayle Alexander.

Assembly and camp programs — Odean Puckett, chairman; Barber; Larry Kennedy; Koon; Porter; and Ogletree.

Church-Minister relations — Ronnie Massey, chairman; Danny Berry; Ed Deuschle; G. A. McCoy; Truitt Roberts; and Lewis.

Missions and evangelism — Ruffin, chairman; Leo Barker; Gandy; George Smith; Alton Yarbrough; and Jon Doler.

Pastoral-church building aid — Harold Ishee, chairman; Mrs. Curtis; W. A. Fordham; Foster; William Waddle; and Dan Robertson.

IBM officials met with the Executive Committee as it was considering the purchase of a new computer to explain a lengthy study period with Baptist Building areas of computer use to determine a proposed solution to the building's computer needs.

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Crimes against church property

(Continued from page 2)

programs that work in our neighborhoods. Let's develop the same successful stratagems to secure life and property in the House of our Lord. We can then have a higher quality standard of worship. We can preach, teach and minister more effectively.

Chester Leland Quarles is the son of the late Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary of The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from 1950 until his death in 1968. His mother recently retired from the English Department at Mississippi College.

Quarles is president of Consolidated Security of America, Inc. and an associate professor of criminal justice at the University of Mississippi. He is a deacon in Tula Church in Lafayette County.

Gunmen rob missionary, steal car in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Mack Sacco was robbed and a mission car stolen in West Beirut by three well-dressed young Lebanese men Nov. 6.

The robbery occurred one afternoon as Sacco was on his way back to East Beirut from the mission office where he works as treasurer of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon.

Three policemen stood nearby as another man, whom Sacco thought was a plainclothes policeman, pulled Sacco off the road. Two other men then joined him. When Sacco asked for identification, one of the robbers pulled out a gun and threatened to shoot him. The robbers took the mission station wagon, mission and personal money amounting to about \$800, and Sacco's jacket, glasses and passport while afternoon traffic passed by.

Eight mission vehicles have been stolen since 1976, only one of which has been recovered. After the incident, Sacco got a taxi to a nearby army post, where he got a ride home across the green line to East Beirut.

Sacco, from Ottawa, Ill. and Gilroy, Calif., lived in West Beirut until recently. Only Mabel Summers and Jim and Leola Ragland live on the Muslim-controlled side of the city now.

Christians are 'ordained' at baptism, Miles says

TOCCOA, Ga. (BP) — All Christians are called to be ministers and should consider their baptism, like ordination, as recognition by the church of that call, a Baptist seminary professor told participants in the twelfth annual Southern Baptist Lay Renewal Conference.

Delos Miles, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said there is very little in the New Testament about ordination, but much about baptism. He sug-

gested Christians should either "equiate baptism with ordination and tie that to a radical priesthood of all baptized believers" or else develop a more "pragmatic approach to ordination."

In an interview later, Miles said baptism should be considered ordination by the church to Christian ministry, and that any ordination other than baptism is strictly a practical thing added on to facilitate the administration of the church.

Most Baptists, he conceded, do not think of baptism as an ordination to ministry, because they have confused the "pragmatic practice of ordination" as being based on Scripture, when it really is not. He said the "pragmatic practice" of ordination is the various different approaches to ordination used by churches of various faiths and denominations to facilitate the faith and order of that particular church.

Miles said he sees no evidence in the New Testament God has divided Christians into clergy and laity, male and female, ordained and unordained, or that God gives one group authority over another.

He suggested the current controversy over ordination of women in the Southern Baptist Convention is not an issue directly addressed in the Scripture.

"The New Testament," Miles said, "is far more concerned with calling and ministry than it is with ordination and authority."

Another speaker at the conference, John Havlik, who retired recently from the Home Mission Board

evangelism section, defended ordination of women.

"Church leaders must not fall back on male chauvinism to deal with the problems. We must face the problem (of ordination) with the belief that in Christ there are none of these myths," he said, calling for "extraordinary people to embrace the future and accept what God is doing."

"It won't get better in the church until it gets better in the world, because we've always followed the world — except for a few brave souls," he continued. The church must become concerned, not with the past, but with "new goals to meet the demands of the mad, mad world."

Thomas Starkes, professor of Christian Missions and World Religions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, presented seven factors which will precipitate renewal in the church: (1) when people quit fighting the Bible and start reading it; (2) when people are not afraid to let miracles happen; (3) when the role of the laity is heightened to what it should be; (4) when the proper role is given to the Holy Spirit; (5) when laymen realize discipline is based on freedom, not on 'oughtness'; (6) when people begin to speak out from the church to the world; and (7) when Christians understand there are people who are hungry and hurting.

Jack Taylor, author of "The Hallelujah Factor," led a study of biblical praise, stressing "every human was created to worship God; it is the reason we exist."

The conference, sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board evangelism section, ended in a praise and celebration service.

Revised budget, 1985 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

	1984	BASIC	ADVANCE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES					
Christian Education	\$3,100,000	\$ 3,227,400	72,600	\$ 3,300,000	18.33
Christian Education Capt. Needs	475,000	500,000	—	500,000	2.78
Unified Endowment Campaign	—	200,000	—	200,000	1.11
Mississippi Baptist Medical Center					
217 Education	35,000	35,000	—	35,000	.19
218 Hardship Assistance	80,000	85,000	5,000	90,000	.50
224 Med. Ctr. Capt. Needs	60,000	60,000	—	60,000	.33
225 Children's Village	308,000	321,000	6,000	327,000	1.82
226 Ministerial Education Board	84,000	87,200	1,800	89,000	.49
227 Christian Action	124,859	130,900	2,600	133,500	.74
228 Baptist Foundation	123,527	127,500	2,500	130,000	.72
229 Historical Commission	31,129	31,500	1,000	32,500	.18
289 Mississippi Baptist Seminary	134,366	134,500	5,000	139,500	.78
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 4,555,881	\$ 4,940,000	\$ 96,500	\$ 5,036,500	27.97
BOARD PROGRAMS					
345 Conv. B.C. Capt. Needs	384,000	384,000	—	384,000	2.13
347 Gulfshore Assembly Programming	137,260	134,000	5,345	139,345	.7
349 Gulfshore Operations	128,528	122,174	—	122,174	.68
350 Program Director's Office	118,118	116,534	2,600	119,134	.66
355 Youth Night	10,000	10,000	—	10,000	.06
360 Broadcast Services	85,533	89,224	2,000	91,224	.51
361 Church Adm.-Pastoral Min.	98,291	92,034	8,770	100,804	.56
362 Church Building Services	40,699	44,448	—	44,448	.25
363 Associational Administration	67,418	62,683	817	63,500	.35
364 WMU	263,023	277,000	6,073	283,073	1.57
367 Sunday School	306,935	330,000	7,471	337,471	1.87
368 Church Training	263,785	273,500	6,237	279,737	1.55
369 Brotherhood	173,080	180,845	4,100	184,945	1.03
370 Church Music	172,415	177,000	4,084	181,084	1.01
371 Student Work	567,391	596,664	13,421	610,085	3.39
344 Student Centers Capt. Needs	100,000	100,000	—	100,000	.56
373 Evangelism	92,801	93,955	—	93,955	.52
374 Cooperative Missions	224,969	213,000	5,669	218,669	1.21
375 Stewardship & Coop. Prog. Prom.	202,476	222,029	3,800	225,829	1.25
376 Subsidies to Associations	111,000	112,500	—	112,500	.63
377 Church-Minister Rel. & Annuity	140,996	145,376	3,659	149,035	.83
378 General Services (Bldg. Maint., Bldg. Serv., Basic Telephone, Print Shop)	618,966	663,162	13,000	676,162	3.76
380 Baptist Record	242,780	203,460	25,000	228,460	1.27
385 Annuity Participation	605,000	615,800	9,200	625,000	3.47
387 Social Security & Ins. (Board)	434,000	545,000	25,000	570,000	3.17
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 5,589,462	\$ 5,804,388	\$ 146,246	\$ 5,950,634	33.06
389 Public Relations	25,675	22,018	2,000	24,018	.13
390 Convention Sessions	17,500	17,500	—	17,500	.09
391 Convention Annual, Diary, etc.	26,000	32,000	—	32,000	.18
392 Convention Board & Comm. Meetings	25,000	25,000	—	25,000	.14
393 Exec. Secty-Treasurer's Office	143,411	145,898	3,050	148,948	.83
394 Business Office	255,354	152,937	—	152,937	.85
395 Data and Word Processing	—	107,859	5,550	113,409	.63
396 Planned Growth in Giving	—	—	71,510	71,510	.40
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 492,940	\$ 503,212	\$ 82,110	\$ 585,322	3.25
STATE CAUSES — GRAND TOTAL	\$10,638,283	\$11,247,600	\$324,856	\$11,572,456	64.28
SBC CAUSES					
351 South Am. Missions Coordinator	30,000	15,000	—	15,000	.08
352 FMB Appointment Service	22,000	—	—	—	—
397 SBC Video Cassette Program	15,000	14,900	—	14,900	.08
399 Mission Service Corps. Prog.	10,000	10,000	—	10,000	.06
400 Southern Baptist Convention	5,769,717	6,212,500	175,144	6,387,644	35.50
SUB-TOTAL	5,846,717	\$ 6,252,400	\$175,144	\$ 6,427,544	35.72
GRAND TOTAL — ALL CAUSES	\$16,485,000	\$17,500,000	\$500,000	\$18,000,000	100.00

Art Toalston to join FMB news staff

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Art Toalston, co-news director at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will join the Foreign Mission Board's news and information services department as staff writer Jan. 2.

He fills a vacancy left when Bill Webb was elected editor of the Illinois Baptist.

Toalston, 34, was religion editor for more than five years at the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News before entering Southwestern seminary's master of arts in communications program in mid-1983. He became co-news director there in February and has continued his studies.

Born and reared in Alliance, Ohio, Toalston received the bachelor of science in education degree from Bowling Green (Ohio) State University. He worked as staff writer for the Courier in Findlay, Ohio; regional editor for the Review Times in Fostoria, Ohio; and education and religion writer for the Middletown (Ohio) Journal before going to Jackson.

Toalston has also been a correspondent for Religious News Service and Christianity Today.



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Footprints on a windswept desert

Searching for food that is not there . . .

By Lounette Templeton

The small body lay on a rough wooden bench, its paper thin, black skin clinging like plastic wrap to a set of fragile bones. Hypnotized, I stared at the lifeless form.

Then I saw the eyes, two large, white circles dotted with dull centers. I watched as the little black dots rolled ever-so-slowly in their milky pools until they looked straight at me. The emaciated child willed the energy from nowhere to turn those piercing eyes in my direction.

A television cameraman had captured the moment, and the picture was beamed to me while I sat in my comfortable living room, sipping after dinner coffee. And I knew the eyes of that half-dead child could see through my usual rationalizations that tried to justify a self-indulgent life style.

I thought of my own children and the real or imagined problems they had faced growing up. Hunger and death by starvation were not among them.

My thoughts turned to the beautiful plump children I teach at nursery school. That morning they had seemed overly active. Since food preservatives cause hyperactivity, I decided maybe they had all had hot dogs for supper. On the other hand, any number of psychological problems could have contributed to their extreme behavior. But somehow, rather than delve into the mysterious reasons for their exuberance, I could only consider how lucky they were.

The TV camera zoomed in on a relief worker picking his way through a field of frail men, women, and children sitting languidly on the parched ground. He glanced at the people and hastily drew a chalk mark across the foreheads of some. A demoralizing, inhuman act, but the marked didn't blink an eye. Later, those with chalk marks, the neediest, would receive clothing; European style garments discarded by fellow members of the human race — albeit the more fortunate ones.

I thought of my own clothes closet stuffed with dresses that are seldom worn because, for one reason or another, they are not quite right. Some are the wrong color.

Recently, I was color-coded and pronounced "spring" by one who has the gift of color discernment. I am supposed to gradually replace the summer, autumn, and winter colors in my wardrobe with the proper spring ones.

But then, on the TV screen, I saw an old woman wrapping a man's overcoat around her bare shoulders. She didn't seem to care that the color and the style were all wrong for her, and I suddenly felt ashamed of my newly purchased dress that matches one of the swatches I carry in my handbag.

The TV camera caught a horde of people running like a stampeding herd across the desert. They had heard a rumor that food would arrive from that direction. An adolescent youngster, her legs like brittle

matchsticks, shuffled along as best she could while carrying a whimpering child on her boney hip. She ran and ran, but there was no food truck coming.

Speaking of running, some of my best friends are runners. But honestly, I can't understand how they do it. I've jogged around a track a couple of times. I've tried the "ladies keep fit" down at the "Y." I've attempted to follow the jazzercise girls on TV. For a while, I even jumped on my mini-trampoline daily. Boring is the kindest description I can give for all that masochism.

But, at last a ladies' group at church has started something that sounds like fun. It's an exercise and diet program combined with Bible study. It is called "The Lovely You." Or, is it "The Gorgeous Me"? Anyway, each session begins with a weigh-in and a sharing time. The women talk over their common frustrations of dieting and share words of encouragement for one another. Then they exercise for a while and end the meeting with Bible study and prayer. On second thought, if the picture of the young girl running toward an empty horizon remains locked in my mind, I can forget the first part of the ladies' meeting. I hope my prayers are not too late.

The commentator says there are seven million starving people in Ethiopia alone, not to mention the other hungry millions around the world. The will to live is a mighty, troublesome compulsion. Rather than sit down and die, these people travel miles and miles, from

one place to another in search of a little food to prolong their agony. From a helicopter, the cameraman shoots a panoramic picture of a pitiful migration, little specks on the grey desert walking somewhere, nowhere.

The TV commentary ruined my evening. I swallowed a white powdery tablet, the one that promises quick relief. But even a double-strength antacid failed to remedy my discomfort.

The carefully nurtured excuses for selfishness and greed don't lie down and die either. I began thinking how hard I've worked to attain my comfortable life-style; besides, my life-style is no different from

most of my fellow church members. After all, wasn't the whole TV production meant to make me feel guilty? But suddenly, a hideous thought crept into my consciousness. Perhaps I felt guilty because I was guilty. Had I become one of those whom Paul suggested is a threat to the church? "... I wrote to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of immorality, or greed, or is an idolator..." (1 Corinthians 5:11).

"God forbid," I cried — for myself — and for my church.

Lounette Templeton is a Southern Baptist missionary, stationed in Hong Kong.

How give to world hunger?

There are several ways individuals can contribute through the Foreign Mission Board to hunger relief in Ethiopia and other African nations ravaged by famine and drought:

1. Give through the local church. It's the easiest way and the Foreign Mission Board recommends it. Contributions designated for "Ethiopia hunger relief" or "Africa hunger relief" will be sent to the Foreign Mission Board and on to Southern Baptist missionaries in Africa. But be specific; gifts designated for "world hunger" will be used worldwide.

2. Send gifts directly to the Foreign Mission Board, designating them for "Ethiopia hunger relief" or "Africa hunger

relief." Mail contributions to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.



Baptist doctor spearheads Mexico fire relief effort

By Judy Garrett

MEXICO CITY (BP) — A Baptist doctor is helping Mexican churches and Southern Baptist representatives respond effectively to the disastrous natural gas explosions that destroyed a poor section of Mexico City Nov. 19.

Sergio Rodriguez Maldonado, a member of Good Shepherd Baptist Church in nearby Cuautitlan Izcalli, got involved almost immediately in relief efforts. When his pastor called for action on the night of the disaster, Rodriguez suggested the church join in work already begun by the Lions Club he belongs to.

Many members went straight from church to the Lions Club that night to help sort and deliver clothing, food and other donations. Rodriguez and his wife worked until 4 a.m.

Women in the church prepared food

for some of the homeless, but access to the refugee area was blocked. Rodriguez gained permission for them to enter through contacts he developed several years ago as a medical service coordinator for the police. He took his pastor into the area to offer consolation and spiritual help for homeless families.

Rodriguez also has channeled food, medicine and clothing from other Mexican Baptist churches and Southern Baptist representatives. Southern Baptist representatives David Daniell of Houston and Larry Gay of Birmingham, Ala., bought blankets and medical supplies with Foreign Mission Board relief funds. The medical supplies were given to two government hospitals treating burn victims. The blankets will be

distributed along with gospels and tracts to needy families when the disaster area is opened.

Southern Baptist personnel requested \$3,500 in relief funds from the Foreign Mission Board Nov. 29 for more blankets, medicine and food. Additional requests are expected.

Rodriguez has traveled through the restricted areas of Zacatengo and Tlalnepantla, where he estimates 29,000 refugees from the disaster have been sheltered until they can be relocated in government housing.

He has seen many of the thousands of surviving burn victims. Most were only superficially burned, but Rodriguez says more than 600 severely burned people will need long-term treatment, including skin grafts. The death toll, meanwhile, has climbed

past 400.

To date no Baptists are known dead or seriously injured, but a member of a mission church in Cuautepc had not been seen days after the explosions. Since the area is still sealed off and no one has been able to search for her, it is believed she could be alive but unable to contact family members or other Baptists. No major damage to Baptist churches or homes in the area has been reported.

Gloria Avina Ruiz, a student at the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary in the city, was visiting her parents in La Laguna, a neighborhood near the disaster area, when the first explosion occurred early in the morning. They went to their roof and saw flames and people running down the streets dressed only in pajamas or wrapped in blankets.

Ruiz and her brother took their father's large truck to help evacuate residents. Arriving at the disaster scene, however, they were turned back by authorities because of the danger. They were on the street when a second explosion came. The sky was completely light from the fires. People

ran randomly, shouting "No, it's not possible!"

The two drove home and opened the small Baptist church next to their home to refugees. They served tea and offered consolation, but many people were too dazed to understand what they said. Later their neighborhood was also briefly evacuated. It was "a nightmare become reality," she said. "Now is when people need us."

Baptist physician Rodriguez believes the largest long-term problem will be the thousands of people suffering psychological trauma from the experience. He expects many to seek counseling.

Baptist relief work must not be "a little here, a little there, but rather specific help where really needed," he said. Baptists will go house-to-house distributing aid as soon as the refugees and relocated and affected zones are reopened. "We will be there to meet not only their material needs, but their spiritual needs as well."

Garrett is the Southern Baptist press representative in Mexico.

Letters to the Editor

Milepost marker seventy-seven

Editor:

Because I have been "on the trail" for 55 years, challenging youth groups and churches to finer Christian living — first on a college campus, later in a wider, full-time lay ministry, many people normally assume that surely I am retired, if not actually deceased! I shared Mark Twain's feeling that the report of his death was a gross exaggeration, since he was still very much alive, when someone, upon hearing of my approaching appointment in a Texas church, said, "Surely not Chester Swor; he's been dead 20 years." So many others, in having contact with me after many years often say, "We wish you could let us know of your continuing work, because we heard you first twenty-thirty-four years ago. In complying with that frequent request, I am sharing with our Baptist papers this information.

Although now between Mileposts 77 and 78, thanks to reasonably good health, I am still filling and enjoying an intense schedule on campuses, in churches, in conventions, and in retreats. During 1983 and 1984 my schedule has included 64 college and university appointments, 24 full-length church appointments, 34 one-time responsibilities, and 26 conventions and conferences. The 1985 schedule promises to be as full and as exciting.

I am encouraged in remembering that Moses did not receive his main assignment until he was 80 years of age and wonder if I dare to hope to be as fortunate. Meanwhile, I shall be "minding HIS sheep" on the campuses and in churches, returning occasionally for brief times-out to my little cottage at 902 Whitworth Street in Jackson, Mississippi. This is my report to the "Stockholders" who have invested thought, prayer, and many good wishes in my work through these wonderful years.

Chester E. Swor
Jackson

Please add my name to those who first heard Chester Swor 40 years ago and never forgot it. It was at Baylor University as I had first ventured outside my world of the cattle and sheep country of West Texas, where men survived because they were physically able to, that I first heard Dr. Swor and wondered what this little man had to say that I would be interested in hearing. It didn't take long to find out. Though I don't remember the words, the impact of that week at Baylor has stayed with me through all of these years. It never occurred to me then that I would ever be a citizen of his state, but through the years I never forgot Chester Swor and his influence. For me it is a distinct privilege to be able to present this Stockholders' Report in Dr. Swor's own state paper. — Editor.

Help for terminated ministers

Editor:

The recent article pertaining to fired pastors shows the need for action by the Mississippi Baptist Convention to adequately care for unemployed pastors.

A state-wide benevolent fund should be established to provide benefits to unemployed pastors. A fund in excess of \$150,000 could be established for about \$.25 per each church member. Annual replenishment of the fund could be made by individual churches similar to the retirement system. The fund could be administered by one of the existing Mississippi Baptist Convention agencies. The agency would establish policies, procedures, and criteria for receiving benefits.

Each lay Christian should be concerned about the treatment of pastors, including financial provisions. First, because of the great promise given in Isaiah 58:7-14. Secondly, because each will be required to give an accountability for their treatment of pastors.

If enough Christians would make their views known to leaders of the convention, such a program could be established to help unemployed pastors.

Kimble Hembree
Hattiesburg

One of the frustrations of compiling a weekly newspaper is that there is always more that needs to be printed about just about every subject. Not much has been said about the benevolent fund that Mississippi Baptists have for terminated ministers, though it has been mentioned at least once before. I appreciate this opportunity of mentioning it again. I am glad to point out that Mississippi Baptists already have such a fund that is financed through the Cooperative Program. So actually your very fine and compassionate suggestion is being worked out as you have suggested except that it is channeled through the Cooperative Program to give it stability and continuity. It is administered by the Department of Church-Minister Relations and Annuity. Clifton Perkins is the director. — Editor.

A truth exposed

Editor:

As a Southern Baptist visitor from Texas, upon reading the Record's editorials, the editor's awareness of balance is delineated.

Especially so, when considering the fuss within the SBC churches and members.

Previously appeared, "The one side" evaluate correctly that the future SBC pulpit's hue will be formed in the seminary."

Currently, "Not only must the Christian be harmless as a dove, but there seems to be time when he also must be wise as a serpent. It's a jungle out there."

Analogously, "seems" appears euphemistically when juxtaposed to "must," nevertheless, the editor exposed a truth.

E. W. Sharpe
Dallas, TX

SBC pastors' conference

Editor:

In response to Owen Cooper's "Guest Opinion" concerning the SBC Pastors' Conference (Nov. 15, 1984) — was this supposed to be a declaration of the positive benefits of the Pastor's Conference or a criticism of recent conference programs and speakers? Most of the space was devoted to the latter.

With all due respect to and appreciation for the contributions Mr. Cooper has made, I feel this article reflects a dislike for the fact that the Pastors' Conference, especially in recent years, is setting a tone for the convention. What better group to do it than pastors, those closest to the heartbeat of our churches.

I personally believe it is wrong to ask pastors to declare convention business matters off limits. Such matters need the prophetic voice of God's preachers — uninterrupted, I might add!

I also can't help but wonder why I've not read anything about our seminary presidents using their position to declare "holy war" (is there any such thing?) against fellow Southern Baptists and making plans to repudiate a duly elected convention president. An opinion on that is in order.

Randy McHan, pastor
Pine Grove Church
Ellisville

A comment on your last statement was in our issue of Sept. 27 on Page 8 in an editorial titled, "Is the SBC still useful?" — Editor.

Californians elect blacks

SAN DIEGO (BP)—California Southern Baptists have elected the first black to hold the convention's highest office.

Willie T. Gaines Jr., pastor of San Jose's Emmanuel Baptist Church for eight years, was elected from a field of five candidates. Black pastors have been vice-presidents of the California convention before.

The cooperative spirit was marked by changes in administrative leadership with messengers honoring retiring executive Robert D. Hughes and James R. Staples. Hughes has been executive director-treasurer for the past 18 years, and Staples has been president of California Baptist College for 13 years. Their successor, C. B. "Bill" Hogue and Russell R. Tuck, respectively, were officially introduced to the convention.

Kentucky Baptists revise budget

LOUISVILLE, KY. (BP) — Kentucky Baptists passed an \$18.2 million budget for 1985-86, revised the 1984-85 budget downward by \$500,000 and elected Jim Lewis, pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, president at their annual meeting.

A motion by convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer William Marshall for a seven-member committee to study "relationship documents" of KBC agencies and institutions was adopted without discussion. The committee will study ascending and descending liability among the convention and the agencies and institutions, including ownership and dissolution provisions.

The 1984-85 budget as approved last year included a \$14.9 million basic operating budget, a \$1.3 million Bold Mission Challenge budget and an anticipated \$1.3 million from income other than church contributions for a total budget of \$17.5 million.

Southwestern faculty supports Dilday's actions

By Jim Jones

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Faculty members at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, have given school President Russell H. Dilday Jr. a vote of confidence as he comes under criticism for speaking out about the division between Baptist conservative and moderate factions.

In a special called session of the faculty Nov. 13 while Dilday was in Kansas City, Mo., approximately 90 of the 105 faculty members approved a resolution stating Dilday had a right and a duty to speak out on the current controversy. No count was taken of the standing vote but no one stood in opposition.

Scott Tatum, professor of preaching and a senior faculty member, presided at the special session, said John Newport, provost and vice-president for academic affairs at the seminary. Newport said he didn't know whether faculty members who might disagree with Dilday's stand stayed away from the meeting, but "I'm sure that some don't agree with everything he says, but I think they agree on his right to speak out."

The three-point resolution approved by the seminary faculty, which is considered among the most conservative of the faculties of the six Baptist seminaries, also reaffirmed the faculty's belief in the Baptist Faith and Message, a doctrinal statement followed by Southern Baptists.

Dilday publicly entered the debate last June at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City when he said a fundamentalist political machine was short-circuiting the democratic process of the denomination.

Of the Baptist Faith and Message,

the faculty noted: "This conservative, biblical statement expresses the heart of the historic Baptist faith. All of us who teach at Southwestern seminary sign that statement and teach within its doctrinal framework."

The faculty also stressed loyalty to the SBC and the Cooperative Program, the convention's voluntary, unified budget plan, as a vital part of the seminary's heritage. "Lee R. Scarborough, president of Southwestern seminary from 1915 to 1942, led the campaign which formed the Cooperative Program," the resolution said. Scarborough also countered efforts by fundamentalists to undo the SBC's "cooperative witness and work," the faculty added.

The closing paragraph of the statement said: "For more than 75 years the presidents, faculty and trustees of this seminary have stood in the forefront of Baptist cooperation in a united effort to share the gospel. We call all Southern Baptists to join us in preserving this noble heritage."

(Jim Jones is religion editor for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.)

S' eastern students support faculty

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)—Four hundred and sixty students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C., have signed "A Statement of Appreciation" in support of the "faculty and administration of the seminary for their unwavering stand for academic freedom in Christ and their abiding respect for the priesthood of each believer."

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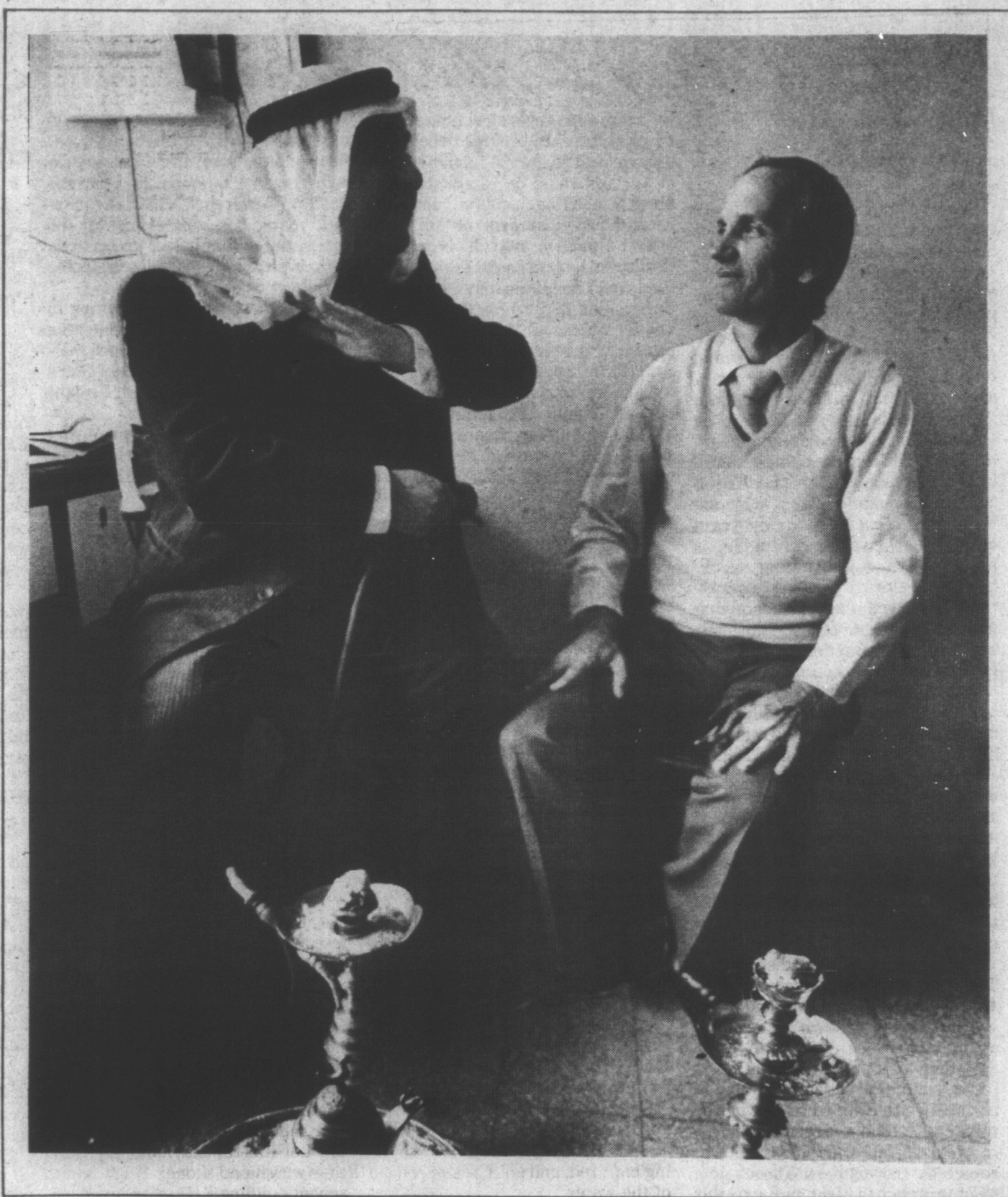
Because I Love Him

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

December 2-9, 1984

Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
Goal: \$66,000,000

A CHRISTMAS VISIT—Ray Register (right), Southern Baptist representative to Israel, calls on a long-time friend, Abuhakam, an Arab noble and merchant whose sons studied at the Nazareth Baptist School. As director of visitation and evangelism in Arab villages, Register has taught English to some of the merchant's relatives. Lottie Moon gifts have helped support the Registers' 18-year ministry in the Galilee area, where a number of churches and Baptist centers have been built with Lottie Moon funds. (FMB) PHOTO By Don Rutledge.



CHILDREN: COUNT IT ALL JOY — MK Sommer Hicks frolics on the rocky shore of the Sea of Galilee with her dad, Ray. Hicks, a Southern Baptist evangelist who works in Tur'an, Israel, and his daughter were not far from the village where Mary Magdalene grew up. (FMB Photo by Don Rutledge)

For Southern Baptist representatives in Israel, Christmas is the best time of the year to share the gospel of Jesus.

In the land of the Savior's birth, crowds hear the Singers of Praise in a program ending with the "Hallelujah Chorus." Both Arabs and Jews look forward to visits in the homes of their Christian acquaintances. Chandler Lanier says the observance is "the one witness that is accepted without hesitation by Israelis."

Almost 50 Southern Baptists, supported in large part by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, work from Ashkelon to Galilee. Mike and Elaine Greer, who live in Bethlehem, decided last year to walk with their three small children up the hill, just as Mary and Joseph did so long ago. After a visit to Manger Square, the family walked on to the Field of the Shepherds, where Mike helped lead a worship service.

As they returned home, Elaine asked Michael, six, what he had learned from the visit. "Mommy," he said, "I guess we live in the most wonderful place in the world."

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

It began at Midnight

"Midnight!" the conductor called, not for time of night but for name of next stop in the Mississippi Delta. "All off for Midnight!" A young man, junior at Mississippi College, stepped down from the train. It was the fall of 1929.

Clyde Carraway planned to preach that Saturday night in the Baptist church in Midnight. Already he was part-time pastor at Antioch (Simpson) and Rock Hill (Rankin). The Flood of 1927 had stopped services in the Midnight church. Now gamblers often gathered at night within its walls. Click of dice and shuffle of cards overwhelmed the squeak of mice. (Just a few weeks ago, 55 years later, someone asked me, "Did you ever hear how Midnight got its name? A gambler won the whole town, on the stroke of midnight.")

Amazingly, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board owned that building. But lots of Delta places in those days, I'm told, were a law unto themselves. Consequently, R. B. Gunter, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptists, agreed with Carraway that some preaching in the building would be a good idea. And that night the minister got there before the gamblers. He swept the floor, dusted off the pews, found a few hymnbooks scattered here and there. Seven came to hear his sermon. He spent the night with the Bullards, and preached again next morning.

One who came both times was Will Turner, who had killed bears when he cleared his land and who owned the only car in the Straight Bayou community, a Touring Ford. Turner said, "Come preach at Straight Bayou this afternoon. We don't have a pastor." Out there, the flood-ravaged old building was propped up with cypress logs. The people heard him, and called him immediately as pastor. Turner asked, "How much did your roundtrip train ticket cost?"

"4.28."

"So let's pay him \$4.28 a trip for his salary," Turner suggested. They voted yes. (If I figure correctly, that was zero for time and work.) Later he bought Turner's car for \$15, to use instead of the train.

Thus began an era of service in the Delta, by a man whose name has become legend. My husband grew up at Straight Bayou. For the 29 years I have been married to him, I have heard his parents and brothers and sisters speak with love and highest admiration of "Brother Carraway." I met him first, I think, when he preached my mother-in-law's funeral in 1963. From time to time, across the years, I have seen or heard him at other gatherings, and felt the warmth of his handclasp. His quiet confidence inspires trust.

Last week, for the first time, I had a chance to sit and listen to him talk for 2½ hours. At age 77, he retired last February (for the third time). Now he and his wife, Eva, live in a mobile home in their daughter, Margaret Johnson's, yard at Farmhaven, Madison County. When I got there

Thursday morning, he was raking leaves. The heavy, snow-like frost of early morning had gone and sunshine had soaked the slopes and trees behind him with red gold.

He remained as pastor at Straight Bayou until 1934, he told me, while living in Belzoni and teaching school. Also he was part-time pastor of Four Mile Lake and Spanish Fort.

Probably, he said, he became the first associational director of missions in Mississippi when the WMU of the old Deer Creek Association employed him in 1933. Mrs. Fletcher Skull Sr. of Hollandale was associational WMU director. When he began, there were eight churches in the association's four counties (Sharkey, Issaquena, Humphreys, Washington). In the next four years he organized 14 churches.

To every church he organized, he said, "I won't help you organize unless you promise to give 10% of all your offerings to the Cooperative Program. Maybe that's not scriptural, but that's my policy."

Those early years of mission work (33-37) he remembers as years he enjoyed most, though they were hardest physically. "I lived out of a suitcase — sometimes slept on the floor — caught the seven-year itch more than once." One host's memorable "best" for supper was rooster and rice.

He organized the Louise Church. In Louise, he baptized 25 in a private swimming pool. "I first baptized a Chinese there," he said. Chuck Woo kept his eyes closed as he climbed into the pool, and all the time he was being baptized, and until he stepped out of the water.

"Why did you do that?" Carraway asked him.

"Because I felt so close to God. He was so near, I was afraid to open my eyes."

Since then, he has had numerous Chinese friends. Many times, he has served as interim pastor of the Chinese Baptist Church in Cleveland where Mrs. Carraway taught a Sunday School class on Sunday afternoons. (In their trailer now, she has an exquisite collection of Chinese curios.)

In years since, he has baptized several thousand persons. (He didn't keep a record.) "The most was 104 at Boyle one Sunday night. Many times, there were 50 or more at one service." While pastor at Straight Bayou, he baptized 80 new members in the muddy Sunflower River.

After he had organized the church at Silver City, he and other men tore down the old church at Midnight. They pulled out the nails, took the place apart, and put it back together, plank by plank, over the pit he had dug for a baptistry in Silver City. For a pastorium, he remodeled one of the oldest houses in Silver City.

He organized the church at Gooden Lake, but he had to "call the law" to help him do it. A little group there met at the school to hear him preach. Not long before, one man had shot and killed another on the steps of the



C. C. Carraway

school. (I suppose the law of the Wild West still prevailed, for nothing had been done about it.) Rowdy characters kept hanging about the building, inside and outside. Finally Carraway told them, "Some want to hear preaching, and I'm going to preach. The rest of you just keep quiet." Then he asked the marshal to come and sit in the services at night. "The church is now on a site given to the Lord in the 30s," he said, "but they worshiped a long time in the old school building."

One of his most dramatic answers to prayer came, he recalls, when he was trying to organize the Cary Church. The sawmill town already had a Methodist church, but no Baptist. Some of the Methodists — one in particular — did not think the town needed a Baptist church, and did not mind saying so. Neither then would the Methodists allow a Baptist mission to meet in their building.

But Carraway kept praying. "I knew I was in the Lord's work. I knew he was going to give us a church." Eventually, permission did come for Baptists to meet at the school. Then a site for a building became available. Carraway helped buy lumber and to build, and stayed as pastor, 1936-42. At the same time, he preached at Arcola, half-time.

While pastor at Boyle, 1942-52, he preached too at Roundaway (Saturday nights) and Interstate (Sunday afternoons). Many, because of his labors, have entered the ministry. Bill Causey, pastor at Parkway, Jackson, and a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, preached his first sermon at Boyle while C. C. Carraway was pastor there. Another he influenced was Bob Simmons, former pastor and missionary to the Philippines, now professor at New Orleans Seminary. He baptized Antoinette Alexander Myers, who went as a missionary to

Thursday, December 6, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

SCRAPBOOK

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

It's a hypodermic needle in a Gaza hospital
a farm in Israel
a hospital in Yemen.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
serves in the Middle East.

It's a station wagon in Abeokuta
a missionary residence in Oyo
a typewriter in Ibadan.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
serves in Africa.

It's a seminary in Zurich
a printing press in Rome
a choice hunk of land in Madrid

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
serves in Europe.

It's a bookstore in Singapore
a summer camp dormitory in Bangkok
a television program in Indonesia.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
serves in the Orient.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
is the result of need and concern, hope and help, understanding and compassion and prayer, and giving, because a tiny Southern woman went to China in response to the same command you and I read every day.

I give through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, because it is my chance to be missionary.

—Betty Jo Corum

Jesus' birthday gift

This Christmas when you make your list

Of gifts that you will give,
Will you put Jesus on your list?
He died that we might live.
He died upon the cross to save
Each person on the earth.
If they believe in him, he will
Give to each one new birth.
Since Christmas is his birthday,
Should we not give to him

A gift that's worthy of his love
To show his love for them?
Let's give to Lottie Moon this year
More than we did before,
So missionaries across the sea
May find an open door.
We need to send the Good News now,
Before it is too late,
So millions who have never heard
Can enter heaven's gate.

—Beth Mitchell Cooley
Gulfport

Vietnam (Mrs. Lewis Myers, whose husband is now on the FMB staff).

In 1952, he organized Riverside, Clarksdale, and built its first building. During a tent revival, "there were 60 or 70 commitments." He dug a baptistry right there in the tent. With an old-fashioned hand pump, he pumped water into it.

From his one out-of-state pastorate at Brunswick, Tenn., he returned to Calvary, Cleveland (58-73). At age 67, he announced his retirement. Silver City called him for a second time. He stayed eight years. In 1981, he retired again. Schlater called him. In two

years there, he established a budget. On the third try, he retired this year in February and moved to Farmhaven.

On July 15, 1984, he preached the dedication sermon for a new sanctuary at Silver City. The members gave silver plaques of appreciation to him and his wife. Hers said, "Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies . . ." His quoted a proverb that always he has lived by: "Do the best you can with what you have where you are, for Jesus' sake today."

(Continued next week)

Arkansas rice, Mississippi trucker meet in Ghana

By Mark Kelly

Glen Corley is a truck driver. Nothing special. Just a hard-working, 46-year-old husband and father of four. A member of Olive Church in Lumberton, Miss.

Corley had been moved by news reports of famine and starvation in West Africa. When he read that Ralph Davis, Southern Baptist missionary to Ghana, had returned to Mississippi to recuperate from a broken leg, he decided to call and check out the reports.

"When I asked what we could do to help, I was thinking we might send some money or food," he recalled. "I was surprised when he (David) told me that what they really needed was a truck driver."

The Southern Baptist mission in Ghana was trying to coordinate Baptist relief efforts in that nation, only one of several in West Africa staggering under the effects of a prolonged drought and subsequent famine and disease.

Across the African continent, up to 150 million people are reported facing starvation. Some accounts place the number of refugees as high as 5 million. Last year, nearly a million Ghanaians were forced out of their refuge in Nigeria and marched across two countries back to Ghana. In addition to the returned refugees, drought, famine and disease, several

years of political instability had left the economy severely depressed and the Ghanaian government incapable of effectively addressing the catastrophe.

Southern Baptists had sent in 400,000 pounds of fertilizer and 150,000 doses of yellow fever vaccine in 1983. Arkansas Baptists, confronted with Ghana's need, pledged at their 1983 annual meeting in Pine Bluff to send 240,000 pounds of rice and 5,000 blankets for the relief effort. The response to that challenge was so great that 320,000 pounds — an extra two shipments — were actually shipped.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Ghana needed someone to help transport that rice. They had a 14-wheel British Leyland truck. They needed a truck driver.

Glen Corley was a truck driver. But his initial answer was negative. With a wife and four kids at home, how could he afford to take time off from work to go to Ghana? How would he cover the cost of the trip? How would he provide for his family during that time?

His answer came in the form of donations, a total of \$7,000 from local churches and individuals. Corley's employer, Dick Miller, who owns a Jackson transport company, gave him the time off — and a \$1,000 con-

tribution as well. Even Corley's Teamster's Union local got into the act.

In March 1984, Corley found himself on his way to Ghana. He spent 11 weeks there and delivered half of the rice Arkansas Baptist sent to relieve the famine.

The task was not easy. Fuel shortages had created week-long waits for gasoline. Armed guards had to be posted at fuel depots to maintain order. It eventually took the American Embassy to secure adequate fuel for the project.

When he drove to the Nalerigu port to load each shipment, he faced armed guards who usually tried to extort a bribe from him before allowing him to leave. Often, valuable grain is taken in this manner and sold on the black market.

But Corley came prepared. Loading his pockets with bubblegum, ink pens and pamphlets, he managed to leave the port each time with his load intact. "They didn't get one pound of rice from me," he bragged.

With a tank of gas and a load of rice, Corley then faced the rugged trip north. Piloting the massive truck over horribly pot-holed roads required all his expertise. Often he drove for three or four hours making only five to 15 miles per hour.

What he saw confirmed the news

reports back home. An elderly woman trying to care for 17 malnourished children. Patients in a mental hospital so weak from hunger they couldn't even get to their feet. Family traditions which allowed men to eat their fill before women and children. Little children suffering the most because they couldn't fight older brothers and sisters to get at the little food left.

Everywhere he left a bag of rice, Corley told the people it was "an expression of love from Baptist Christians in Arkansas."

It was an expression of love that made a difference, according to a letter from missionary Davis to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Davis shared his gratitude for the "privilege of taking 200 bags (of rice) out to the 40 churches" he and his wife serve. Davis also reported having delivered blankets to a large government hospital and a prison, where most of the inmates slept uncovered on the ground or on their cell floors. Consequently, many had contracted yellow fever.

Another letter came from Mr. and Mrs. Walter Moore of Mena, who served nine years as missionaries at a Nalerigu hospital. The Moores wrote to tell Arkansas Baptists the hospital had received 300 100-pound bags of rice.

A third letter, from Douglas A. Bryant, president of the Ghana Baptist Mission in Kumasi, detailed the distribution of the Arkansas rice and blankets. According to Bryant, the government had requested one-third of the rice be shared with non-Baptists. Toward this end, 12 hospitals, eight prisons, two children's homes, a nurses' training college and a secondary school — all in eight towns — received a portion of the rice.

The remainder of the grain was distributed among 120 Baptist churches, Bryant explained.

As for the blankets, 3,000 were given to eight hospitals and 2,000 went to seven prisons, where blankets are "practically non-existent," Bryant wrote.

As for Glen Corley, he had "the greatest mission trip ever." Before going to Ghana, "I didn't think God would be able to use me in missions because I'm a trucker, not a doctor or teacher or singer," he said. "But now I know that God uses common people with ordinary occupations and talents to perform his mightiest works. I know he wants to use each of us, both abroad and in our local communities."

Mark Kelly is a staff writer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, where this article was first printed.



GRAIN FOR ZIMBABWE — Long before television newscasts brought African hunger to American attention, Southern Baptist missionaries were involved in hunger relief in a number of African countries. Here, grain is delivered to people in the Gokwe area of Zimbabwe, where drought and the resulting malnourishment were problems that prompted the start of Baptists' People Who Care Project. Louisiana Baptists committed themselves to provide volunteers for the project beginning in December 1982 and continuing through 1985. Well-drilling, nutritional training and improved health care are all part of the rural development program. (FMB) PHOTO By Jim Richardson.

Louisiana focuses on gambling

PINEVILLE, La. (BP) — Louisiana Baptists increased Cooperative Program giving to the Southern Baptist Convention from 34 to 34.25 percent when they adopted a \$16 million budget for 1985 during their 137th session in Pineville Nov. 12-14.

Messengers also affirmed women in their Christian service and "steadfastly" supported Baptist Press, the SBC's news agency, that "cannot and will not be controlled or pressured to publish less than the whole truth."

The \$16 million budget, increased by \$250,000 over 1984, will be divided 34.25 percent for Southern Baptist programs and 65.75 percent for Louisiana programs.

Three adopted resolutions focused on gambling, one restating opposition to further legalize gambling, one to launch earnest efforts to educate individuals about gambling's "destructive effects" and the third a call to repeal charitable gambling laws.

Seminaries involve 8,769 through SEED

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Bivocational pastors, persons in preparation for ministry roles and lay persons seeking new ways to be involved in ministry were among the 8,769 persons who received training through Seminary External Education Division (SEED) during 1983-84.

Operated jointly by the six Southern Baptist seminaries, SEED provides off-campus theological study opportunities through its two departments, Seminary Extension and Seminary Studies. Its programs are designed

for individuals who have been unable to attend a seminary, even though they already may be on a church staff.

The great majority of SEED's students (8,517) took either pre-college or college-level courses through the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. Some 2,099 of these participated in correspondence study through the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. Another 6,418 were enrolled in classes in the 394

Seminary Extension centers in operation around the country.

Graduate-level courses, offered in seven strategic locations through the Seminary Studies department, were taken by 252 persons. Credits earned in this program may be applied toward a degree at one of the Southern Baptist seminaries.

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DOM retires in Pearl River County

Marvin K. Lee has announced that he will retire Dec. 31, as director of missions for Pearl River Association, according to a report from G. A. McCoy, member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from Pearl River Association.

Lee's ministry has spanned 45 years and 6 months; he was licensed to preach in June 1939, at Union Baptist Church, Pearl River County.

He previously served as director of missions for Calhoun County Association for nine years, and Jasper County for two years. He began the first mission program in Lamar County in 1958, under the title of associational pastor, in connection with the pastorate of Bellevue Church. He also served as pastor of Lake Como in Jasper County in connection with the mission program there. Other pastorates were Shady Grove, George County; Pine Grove, Jones County; Hepzibah, Jeff Davis County; and Gainesville and Zion Hill in Pearl River.

Since he became director of missions there Oct. 1, 1975, Lee has

seen Pearl River Association experience a tremendous growth in every area. The associational budget has increased from \$23,775 in 1975 to \$70,657; Cooperative Program gifts from \$118,108 to \$336,000. Associational giving increased from \$20,400 to \$70,390. Grand total mission expenditures increased from \$200,163 to \$725,685. Total receipts in 1974 were \$1,211,647 and increased to \$3,144,171 in 1984.

Three churches have been added to the association, for a total of 33. Lee gives credit for the increase to the pastors and laymen who have been willing to work with him.

An additional building was purchased, renovated, and equipped for a Training Center. The office building has been improved, and the parking lot paved.

Three years ago, Lee asked the Administrative Committee of the association to give him another staff member whose title would be program director. This was done in view of the fact that he could be trained and also have the experience to become a director of missions. Kenneth Rhodes, pastor of Juniper Grove Church, has served as program director and will assume the duties of director of missions Jan. 1, 1985.

The association has coordinated, commissioned and sent out mission teams for the last five years. Lee has had a part in the ordination of 150 deacons (one being his son), and 83 preachers (one being his son-in-law).

He is a native of Mississippi. He attended Mississippi College and B.B.I. (now New Orleans Seminary), and did additional work at William Carey College and University of Southern Mississippi. He completed courses in associational missions and Southwestern Seminary, and Southern Seminary. He received national recognition twice for work done in rural associations and was featured in the March 1973 issue of the Home Missions.

He is married to the former Evelyn Powell. They have four children: Kathy McNair, who is serving with the Foreign Mission Board in Uruguay; Danny, Picayune; David, Tupelo (who serves as bi-vocational minister of music at Parkway Church), and Karen, at home.

As he approaches retirement he says, "I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in every place God has led me, but there is something special about being called 'back home' to serve where God could use me among my own people, the greatest people on earth."

Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Karen plan to spend Christmas in South America visiting their missionary children, John and Kathy McNair, Mark and Heather, and to see the mission work being done in Uruguay.



Lee



350 women meet for prayer

Three hundred and fifty National and Southern Baptist women gathered at West Laurel Church in Laurel for a World Day of Prayer program and fellowship. Thirty churches were represented from the two denominations.

Richard Brogan, president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, brought greetings and presented plaques of appreciation to Mrs. Alma Barnes and Mrs. Dell Scoper for their efforts in promoting the event.

Left to right: Mrs. Helen Fling of Birmingham, Ala., promotion associate in new areas for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Mrs. Alma Barnes, president of the National Baptist Women of the East Mississippi Convention; Richard Brogan, Mrs. Dell Scoper, a district director of the WMU.

The World Day of Prayer in Jones County will be held at St. Elma Baptist Church in 1985.

Staff Changes

Horace Thomas has accepted the pastorate of Springdale Church, Ripley. He goes to Springdale from Shiloh Church in Alcorn County. He and his wife Dellynn moved on the field Nov. 4.

C. C. Ard is the new pastor of Ger-shorn Church, Pontotoc County.

Zion Church, Pontotoc County, has called Rob Jackson as minister of music.

Jon Daniels has resigned the position of minister of youth at West Jackson Church, Jackson, to accept the position of minister of youth at Forest Hill Church, Jackson.

Buddy Trull has resigned the pastorate of Midway Church, Vardaman, effective Dec. 16. He will move to Christoval, Tex. and will attend college at Angelo State University; San Angelo.

Virginia favors women's ordination

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP) — The General Association of Virginia Baptists expressed approval of the ordination of women and voted to join the class action suit against the appointment of a United States ambassador to the Vatican at its annual meeting Nov. 13-14.

Messengers also: Adopted a record budget of \$13,200,000;

Joined a sister relationship with the Baptist Convention of Colombia, South America, for 1985-87 to help in urban evangelism and to help meet physical needs in that country;

Adopted a recommendation to assist ministers who have been forcibly terminated

Steve Lemmond has been called to North Oxford Church, Oxford, as minister of activities and youth. He goes to North Oxford from First Baptist, Nacogdoches, Tex., where he served as minister of activities. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. Lemmond was selected as a member of the 1984 Olympic Games Committee by the Home Mission Board and helped write Eternal Gold, which was distributed at the games. He and his wife, Carol Ann, have one son, Matt.

Evon Ingram has been called as pastor of the Lawn Haven Church near Laurel. He moved from Andalusia, Ala., where he served as pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church. Ingram, a native of Magee, is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He served as director of missions in Escambia Baptist Association in Ala. from 1954-1958.

Donald E. Bradley, Sr., has accepted the pastorate of Lakeshore Church, Waveland. Natives of Ocean Springs, he and his wife, Penny, have three children. Bradley has been attending Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Florida, majoring in theology.

Gary Anglin has accepted a call to First Church, Pascagoula, as minister of music. Gary received his education from Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.

He has served the following churches: Alta Woods Church, Jackson, First Church, McComb, First Church, Gainesville, Tex., and Center Terrace Church, Canton.



Anglin

Two agencies form libraries

NASHVILLE — A 31-year agreement for the operation of a joint library for the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Sunday School Board has been terminated to allow the formation of two separate libraries.

The Dargan-Carver Library has been located in the Sunday School Board facilities and jointly operated by the two agencies since 1953. Announcement of the formation of the two libraries was made by commission Executive Director-Treasurer Lynn E. May Jr. and BSSB President Lloyd Elder.

The Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives will be operated by the commission, as a central depository and archives of the denomination by the commission when it moves to quarters in the new Southern Baptist Convention building in January 1985.

The library of the Sunday School Board will be named the E. C. Dargan Research Library in honor of an early editor at the board.

Henley reelected by Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — In its 162nd annual session, messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention reelected Wallace Henley, pastor of McElwain Baptist Church, Birmingham to a second term as convention president.

Alabama Baptists approved without discussion a budget of \$29,482,000 for the coming year with a base budget goal of \$20,695,000 — a 15 percent increase from last year.

The basic budget will be divided with \$8,400,223 (40.6 percent, an increase of 0.6 percent over last year) going to SBC causes, \$9,633,746 to state convention causes and \$2,661,029 to general denominational causes.

Messengers to the convention approved seven resolutions and other recommendations. One action recommended that by 1990, the Cooperative Program receipts be divided equally between state and SBC causes.

SBC President Charles Stanley was assured of the prayer support of Alabama Baptists in another resolution.

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Missionary News

Mary Dann Stampley, missionary to Ghana, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 9232, Airport, Accra, Ghana). A native of Benton, she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1961.

Mary Alice Ditsworth, missionary to Indonesia, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: 4610 Orchard Rd., Pascagoula, Miss. 39567). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Lucedale and grew up in Pascagoula. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1956.

Revival Dates

Mt. Nebo Church (Newton) Rt. 1, Collinsville: Dec. 9-13; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lanier, Northcrest, Meridian, evangelist; Chris Lee, Antioch, Neshoba, music; Michael Trukett, pastor.

Revival Results

Wheeler Grove Church (Alcorn Association) recently held its fall revival with pastor Kara Blackard as evangelist. Approximately 45 were saved and 32 were baptized.

Homecomings

Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg, 32nd homecoming; Dec. 9; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; Laverne Musser, former pastor; lunch at noon, Fellowship Hall; afternoon service, 1:45 p.m.; James Yates, former pastor; A. J. Pace, pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Dec. 9 Foreign Missions Day in Sunday School (SS Emphasis)

Just for the Record



During the worship service Sept. 23, the Acteens and Girls in Action of **First Church of Gautier** was recognized with the presentation of badges, crowns and scepters they had earned this year. Prior to the service the Acteens were honored at a Mother and Daughter Tea sponsored by their leaders. Top photo, GAs, left to right, Holly Reeves, Trisha Hilton, Shelly Young, Jessica Stringer, Bonnie Barker, Leslie Koski, Mary Jennifer Greene, Vicki Haygood, Denise Godwin, Rachel Price, Kristi Haygood. Bottom photo, Acteens, left to right, Kay Maghan, Anne Stringer, Lara Usher, Sara Barker, Gina Brooks, Angie Curry, Laurie Gautier, Jamie Griffin, Debora Irwin, Lisa Marks, Angie Price, Ashley Sanderford, Kelli Sullivan. Not Pictured, Nikki Curry and Jennifer Bustin. Billy Williams, pastor.



In a candlelight service on Nov. 18, eighteen GAs from **Newhebron Church, Newhebron**, received Mission Adventure badges. The theme of the service was "My Promise to God." Receiving badges were (front row, left to right) Emily Little, Cassandra Lee, Sherece Manchester, Suzanne Berry, Amy Buckley, Tina Steinhauer; (second row, left to right) Kim Merrell, Jennifer Flynn, Kim Sharp, Amy Folk, Amanda Mullins, Jolene Folk, Dawn Lee; (third row, left to right) Sandy Mullins, Carrie Folk, and Cindy Mullins. Not pictured were Tammy Dickerson and Mandy Russell. Sonny Adkins, pastor.

Seminary plans convocation

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary is sponsoring an eight hour convocation on black church development in Mississippi. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15, at the New Hope Church, 5202 Watkins Drive, Jackson. Friday evening's program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday's program will meet at 9 a.m.

There is a \$3.00 registration fee which includes lunch and material. The speakers will be J. D. Ellis of Atlanta, Ga.; Willie McPherson of

Atlanta; and Sid Smith of Nashville, Tenn.

The main objectives of the convocation are to identify perceived needs for black Baptist church development, to identify resources for meeting those needs, and to develop relationships and processes through which to apply resources to those needs.

Richard Brogan is president of the seminary, and Hickman Johnson is dean of academic affairs.



"In the Garden" was the theme of GA-Acteen Recognition Service held at **New Salem Church, Columbus** in September. Receiving recognition were, left to right, Kim White, Tracy Woodruff, Julie Gilmer, Queen Bonnie McCraw, Queen Casi McCraw, Queen Angela Watson, Kristy Cantrell, Jennifer Guy, and Diane Watson. GA leaders at New Salem are Mrs. Lynda Woodruff and Mrs. Eleanor Pendley. Acteens leader is Mrs. Betty Ansley. Tommy Ansley is pastor.



First Church, Ridgeland, held RA Recognition Service. First row, l to r, are Scott Albritton, Charles David Ceasar, Matt Ellis, Osid Riley, Brian Thomas, and Matthew DeMoney. Top row, l to r, are Bobby DeMoney, counselor, Ritchie Norris, Bobby Truesdale, Clint Davis, Jason Roche, Matt Jenkins, Chris Burkes, and Mike Craddock, counselor.

National SBC causes get 50-50 Florida split

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (BP) — Florida has become the first state convention in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention to officially channel one half of its undesignated Cooperative Program receipts to world missions through the national body.

Oklahoma Southern Baptists also approved a 50-50 split but voted after Florida.

The 1,954 officially registered messengers to the 123rd annual meeting adopted a \$17,608,544 basic Cooperative Program budget which means national SBC causes will receive \$8,804,277 if the budget is fully funded. A potential windfall of \$1,144,556 is included in a \$2,289,112 advance budget for receipts over and above the basic budget.

Last year Florida sent 49 percent of its receipts to the national Cooperative Program.

Messengers approved articles of incorporation and bylaws for the Florida Baptist Witness, the official state Baptist news magazine. The action followed a statement by Witness chairman, Carroll Kendrick, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Orange Park, in answer to charges the commission had not dealt with criticism of the editor, Jack Brymer.

"Let me assure each of you that your commission is ready and willing to deal publicly on the floor of the convention with any matter left to our charge," Kendrick told the messengers. No questions were asked.

He said the commission had dealt thoroughly and completely with the rumors and found them to be false. The statement also said the commission was unanimous in support of the editor and reaction to the editor's leadership was overwhelming.



The Morning Circle of the Baptist Women, Emmanuel Church, Grenada, delivered fruit and candy baskets to the shut-ins in their church. They are (1st row) Irene Tillman, Jo Williams, Vella Morris, and Bea Collins. On the second row are Isa Mae Boshers and Hildred Lott. Third row are Thelma Roberts and Nadine Waddle. Fourth row consists of Nita Aired.

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Supreme Court rejects trio of church appeals

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — Three churches, including an independent Baptist congregation, lost their legal bids in disputes with state and local governments when the U.S. Supreme Court rejected their appeals.

In unsigned orders announced Nov. 13, the court, without dissent, refused to review a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling that North Platte Baptist Church, North Platte, Neb., must comply with state regulations to keep its parochial school doors open.

The congregation was one of about 20 Nebraska congregations which defied state laws requiring teacher certification in all schools in the state, public and private. The overwhelming majority of church-related schools were already in compliance with the requirement, but North Platte Baptist Church refused to go along on grounds the state had no authority to require teacher certification.

In a written appeal to the nation's high court, the church also argued that the requirement violated parents' rights to decide which school is best for their children. (83-1974, North Platte Baptist Church v. Nebraska)

Another local congregation, First Assembly of God Church of Alexandria, Va., likewise failed to convince the justices to review a zoning dispute with the city over a church school.

Last June the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals held that zoning

restrictions attached to the church's special use permit to operate its school did not violate the First Amendment's establishment of religion clause because they had the strictly secular purpose of promoting public health, safety and welfare.

When the church refused to comply with the zoning restrictions, the court ruled further, it was properly prohibited by a lower court from operating the school.

For its part, the church argued unsuccessfully that the First Amendment's free exercise of religion clause encompassed its right to operate a school on its property to further its ministry without government interference. (84-445, First Assembly of God Church v. City of Alexandria, Va.)

In a third action, the high court also rejected the appeal of a non-profit church corporation which owns and operates a commercial television station in Hartford, Conn. The church, Faith Center, was denied property tax exemption by the city of Hartford.

The church took the city to court but the Connecticut Supreme Court held the city acted within the law and dismissed the church's contention that the denial constituted an excessive entanglement of government with religion and violated its free exercise of religion. (84-260, Faith Center v. City of Hartford)

Stan Haste writes for Baptist Press.

North Greenwood pastor to retire this month

Walter L. Yeldell has resigned the pastorate of North Greenwood Church, where he has served his longest pastorate — 12½ years.



After more than forty-eight years of preaching, Yeldell is retiring from the active pastorate. He plans to do supply and interim work as he is needed. For the present, after December 31, he will be living at 504 E. Monroe, Greenwood, Miss. 38930.

Yeldell was born in Crossett, Ark. He was educated in the public schools of Arkansas. He was graduated from Ouachita Baptist College (now University) in 1940, with a B.A. degree. He taught school and served as pastor of five churches, until 1942, when he entered Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he was graduated in 1947. Two of the years between 1942 and 1947 were spent in the U.S. Army as a chaplain in the European Theatre of Operations.

Upon completing his work at the seminary, Yeldell moved to Arkansas. He served these churches for about twenty-five years: First, Clarksville, where the congregation built a total new church plant; First Church, West Memphis, where they

built a new education building; Second Church, Hot Springs, where a number of new buildings were erected and a large bus ministry begun.

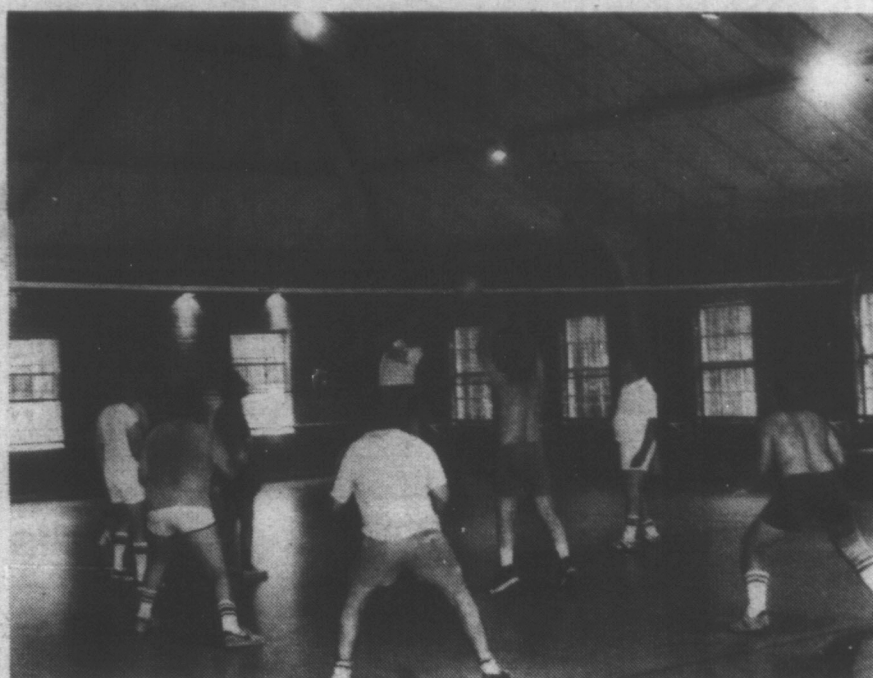
In 1972 he moved to North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, Miss. In these 12 years the church has built a new auditorium at a cost of almost one million dollars.

His denominational activities include serving on a number of boards in Arkansas — Executive Board, Board of Trustees for Southern Baptists College, chairman of the Board of Trustees for Ouachita Baptist University; Board of Trustees of Southern Baptist Seminary; Historical Commission, SBC; Committee on Boards of Southern Baptist Convention.

He served two terms as president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention (1964-65, 1965-66). He has served seven years on the Executive Board for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and on the Committee on Boards.

In 1965, Ouachita Baptist University honored him with a doctor of divinity degree.

Yeldell is married to Emma Katherine Boswell Yeldell of Owensboro, Ky. They have four children, all living in Little Rock, Ark. and four grandchildren.



Ministerial athletes

Ministers in Lauderdale Association enjoy a weekly game of volleyball after an earlier fellowship with coffee and doughnuts and a program. The volleyball games are held at First Church, Meridian. The programs are at the association office. Following the volleyball games, the group goes to lunch together. Leon Young is director of missions in Lauderdale Association.

Names in the News

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Baker James Cauthen is receiving outpatient therapy at his apartment near Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., after being released from a rehabilitation hospital Nov. 23. The executive director-emeritus of the Foreign Mission Board is making good progress following a mild stroke he suffered Oct. 22, according to Mrs. Cauthen. He is walking outside some with a cane and exercising to help regain strength in his left hand and arm, she said. The Cauthens plan to fly to their son's home in Greensboro, N.C., Dec. 16 and then drive to their home in Richmond, Va., a few days later.

Kenneth Walker was recently ordained a deacon at West Corinth Church, Corinth.

Dave Bobo was recently ordained a deacon at Holly Church (Alcorn Association).



Molly Fairchild, (pictured with JoJo), and her husband, Al Fairchild, of Moselle will lead a workshop Dec. 27-29 in Jacksonville, Fla. for children and youth workers, on the arts of ventriloquism, puppetry, clowning, magical illusions, and chalk art. Mississippians who expect to be in the area over the holidays are invited, Mrs. Fairchild said. She added that a trip for workshop participants to Disney World is being planned for Dec. 31. For more information about time and place, contact Molly Fairchild, Box 188, Moselle, MS 34459 (phone 544-4420.)

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Breithaupt, members of Stanton Church, Natheez, will be honored Dec. 8 at the church on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. James Crumpton, the preacher who married them 40 years ago, will speak during the observance. Breithaupt, a deacon, helped to organize the church in 1963. Mrs. Louise Parson of the church is coordinating the events pertaining to the observance, which will be from 2 to 4 p.m.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Billy Graham will address the 42nd Annual Convention of National Religious Broadcasters. The convention, February 3-6, 1985, will bring together more than 4,000 delegates in Christian media.

Al and Emily Green, missionary appointees to Argentina, will be leaving for language school in Costa Rica on Dec. 28. Their address will be: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica.

John Lee Taylor, a Mississippian, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference on the first ballot. Taylor is pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn.

Southwestern Seminary alumni of Mississippi in their annual meeting on Nov. 13 announced that Allen Webb, director of missions, Jackson County Association, had been chosen as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. This award is given each year to one of more than 600 former students of Southwestern who serve in Mississippi. Webb earned the Th.M. degree in 1944 and Th.D. degree in 1950 from Southwestern. His wife, Leila Mae Runnels Webb, was graduated from Southwestern in 1944. They returned to Mississippi in 1960. He is retiring this month.

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (BP) — George W. Bullard Jr., manager of the Megafocus Cities Program at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, has been named director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's missions department, effective Feb. 1, 1985.

Colorado Baptist University given to Southwest U.

BOLIVAR, MO. (BP) — Trustees of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., has accepted the gift of the charter of the Colorado Baptist University. The school, located in the Denver suburb of Aurora, will operate as an extended studies center of SBU.

The institution currently has 51 students enrolled; 20 of them full-time (taking at least 12 hours). Classes are basically offered in late afternoon and evening. Offices and classrooms are in an educational facility also used by Webster University and Aurora Community College. All three institutions use the Central Aurora Library.

According to James Sells, chancellor at Southwest Baptist University, about 16 years ago, a handful of Coloradians, who have their roots in Missouri and the Midwest, formed Colorado Baptist College.

First meeting

MADISON, Wis. (BP) — Minnesota Wisconsin Southern Baptists celebrated their first year as a convention during their first annual meeting at Midvale Baptist Church, the "mother church" of the SBC in the two-state area.

During the session in Midvale, which began in 1953 with 19 members, messengers were told the convention now has grown to 11,848 members in 80 churches and 36 missions across the two state area.

Messengers were told baptisms last year amounted to 819 and Sunday school enrollment has grown to 8,750 persons.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting was the presentation of a plaque to Bob Stockland, Duluth pastor, by Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn. Stockland originated "Tele-guide," a program featuring telephone placement of BSSB Home Bible Study guides for church planting and cultivation of prospects.

162 attend Preview Days

According to Buddy Wagner, dean of admissions at Mississippi College, 162 high school students attended the two Preview Days held in the fall to give prospective enrollees a first-hand look at the College and its academic programs.

The 162 visitors represented the states of Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri and Tennessee. High schools in the Jackson area furnished the most students with 61.

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Romanian church is demolished

BISPRITA, ROMANIA (EP) — The 500-member Baptist Church in Bisprita, Romania, was demolished and its pastor fined six month's wages for an alleged building-code violation, according to Christian Response International (CRI).

According to Jeff Collins of CRI, an international agency monitoring and intervening on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world, the church in Bisprita was a legal church, and a member of the Baptist Union of Romania. The church had sought a building permit to expand the size of the building by one meter, and had been denied permission repeatedly by city officials. But the church's problems really began when permission was finally received.

The church made the desired expansion after receiving written permission from city officials. But, according to Collins, some members of city government who did not approve of the decision sent a construction crew to the church building on Nov. 3 to tear off the building's roof. The removal of the roof took place with no advance warning.

When worshippers came to church Sunday morning they found the roof missing, but still a crowd of about 700 met for worship. During the next

week the walls were torn down and the foundation destroyed.

"When we spoke with the pastor he was weeping on the phone and asking for prayer support from the people of the United States," said Collins. "This was a legally registered church. Their only crime was that they were very effective in leading people to Christ."

Collins said the pastor, the Rev. Nicu Minzat, was fined 6,000 lei for alleged building code violations. The fine is equal to about \$42; Collins claims this would be about six months pay for Minzat.

The largest Baptist church in Romania, the Baptist Church in Oradea, is also scheduled to be torn down. Its congregation of 1,500 to 2,000 members has been very effective in evangelism.

Collins says the oppression of the church in Romania is a reaction to successful evangelism in that country. The church claimed 20,000 members ten years ago; today it boasts 250,000 members.

Brother Andrew's Open Doors organization reports that Romanian police are using sophisticated torture techniques against people caught distributing Bibles, and are searching cars in an effort to stop Bible smuggling.

1st, McComb, youths plan New Year's Eve event

On New Year's, First Church, McComb, will host its first annual New Year's Eve Celebration, an event designed for students, seventh grade through college.

The event will begin at 8:30 p.m. with a time of recreation, refreshments, "wild" skits, and talent.

The highlight of the evening will be Kenny Marks in concert. Marks is a contemporary Christian entertainer, whose music and ministry is geared towards today's youth. His album, "Right Where You Are," is present-

ly in the top 20 on the charts.

"I believe this can be a great night for our youth to come together and celebrate life and the challenges 1985, a night for many youth to start out the new year with Jesus as Savior and Lord! I can see at least 500 youths spending this holiday in a fun, challenging, and Christian way," said Terry W. Sharp, minister of youth, First, McComb.

There is no cost for the evening. Any young person who has unusual (not so good!?) talent, skit, etc. that lasts 3-4 minutes, is invited to come at 7:30 to audition.

Tennessee, Venezuela form partnership

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Messengers to the 110th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a mission partnership with the National Baptist Convention of Venezuela and adopted a record \$19,625,000 Cooperative Program goal, but declined to consider a resolution on the role of women in Baptist life.

A record registration of 1,714 messengers accepted the report of the resolutions committee to not bring back any of four resolutions submitted by messengers dealing with women's role. Instead, the committee reported that a resolution affirming the role of women, without any mention of ordination, passed by the 1983 state convention was adequate.

The convention approved a three-

year relationship with Venezuelan Baptists, beginning in November 1985, upon completion of a five-year hunger and relief project with the Foreign Mission Board in Burkina Faso (Upper Volta).

In the past five years, more than 600 Tennesseans have gone to that western African nation to participate in water conservation, agricultural, public health, literacy and evangelistic projects.

The new Cooperative Program goal increased the percentage shared with the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program from 36.25 percent to 6.53 percent. This is the eighth consecutive year the percentage has been increased, after remaining at 33.33 percent for 16 years.



DOMs elect Leslie

The Mississippi Conference of Directors of Missions held a luncheon meeting at the Hinds-Madison associational office on Nov. 12, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Officers for 1985 were elected. Pictured left to right: Nat Mayhall, Alcorn Association, secretary-treasurer; Arthur Leslie, Lafayette and Marshall associations, president; Lavar Hatten, Warren and Yazoo associations, vice-president. Not pictured: J. W. Brister, Hinds-Madison Association, pianist; J. C. Renfro, Rankin Association, song leader.

Counseling training for ministers

NEW ORLEANS — A workshop to aid ministers in their work as counselors will be held Thursday, Dec. 13, at New Orleans Seminary.

The Continuing Education workshop titled "The Minister as Counselor" will cover such topics as symptomology, diagnosis, crisis counseling, and marriage and family counseling.

Seminar leaders will be the seminary's three professors of psychology and counseling, Carroll Freeman, Stanley Watson, and Macklyn Hubbell.

The workshop fee is only \$10. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Dec. 13, in the foyer of the seminary cafeteria. The workshop will end at 3:30 p.m.

48 new chapels

WARREN, Mich. (BP) — Carl Petty, pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Flushing, was unanimously reelected to a second term as the president of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Rochelle Davis, pastor of the Temple of Faith Baptist Church, Detroit, was elected first vice-president. Davis, a black pastor, will be chairman of the executive committee of the state executive board. Some 48 new church-type chapels have come into existence since the convention last met and 10 mission chapels were constituted into churches during the year. There are now 207 churches affiliated with the state convention.

Delaware 'named' to Maryland

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (BP) — The 149th annual session of the Baptist Convention of Maryland was also its last.

Messengers to the meeting at Glen Burnie Baptist Church unanimously finalized their 1983 vote to change the name of the convention to the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Baptists in Delaware have comprised one of the conventions' 12 associations.

capsules

U.S. children go hungry

CHICAGO, IL (EP) There is an epidemic of silent hunger and undernourishment among America's children, according to a nationwide study released by the Physicians Task Force on Hunger in America. Undernourishment means that a child is at least one-fifth underweight according to normal weight-growth patterns — enough to make a critical difference in health.

The nationwide survey indicates that malnutrition among the poor is rising. Chicago reports 10 to 25 cases of rare starvation diseases, kwashiorkor and marasmus, found each year by doctors at Children's Memorial Hospital and Mt. Sinai Medical Center. In Massachusetts, one out of ten children from low-income families is below normal in growth rates, one in eight have iron deficiency, and one in five show some indication of inadequate diet.

The study found specific problems in various parts of the country. Endemic typhoid and leprosy were found in the Rio Grande Valley. Navajo Indians suffer paralysis from a vitamin B12 deficiency. Water intoxication from formula dilution was found among Chicago infants.

Hughey lectureship is established

RUESCHLIKON — The Institute for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies of the Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland, announces the establishment of the J. D. Hughey Lectures in Baptist History and Identity.

The lectures are established in memory of John David Hughey, former faculty member and President of the seminary, who retired as Director for Europe and the Middle East of the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention in 1981. Hughey died July 8, 1984 in Richmond, Virginia.

Management seminar set

DALLAS, TX (EP) "Management, Leadership and Integrity," is the theme of the eighth annual Christian Management Institute to be held in Dallas, TX, February 18-21, 1985. Planned for management personnel from Christian organizations, the seminar is sponsored by the Christian Ministries Management Association.

Scheduled speakers include Zig Ziglar, motivational expert and author; David Cummings, president of Wycliffe Bible Translators; Ron Blue, a financial management expert; and Mary Crowley, president of Home Interiors, a national multi-level sales organization.

HMB opens offices

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has opened regional church loans division offices in Baltimore and Los Angeles in an effort to cut travel costs and be more accessible to Southern Baptist churches.

The western regional office is directed by James Forrest.

Texas Baptists give \$5.2 million

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptists gave more than \$5.2 million for missions through the Cooperative Program in October—the largest amount ever given by a state Baptist convention in one month.

Texas Baptists gave \$5,254,158 in October which was \$774,991, or 17.3 percent, above the required budget of \$4,479,167.

Murray warns of atheist convention

COPPELL, TEXAS (EP) — Evangelist William Murray, son of noted atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, has sent a letter to over 5,000 preachers in Texas, warning them of the scheduled 15th Annual Convention of American Atheists, which will be held in Austin, Texas, during Easter of 1985.

Murray wrote "The atheists will show their strength in Texas. As many as several thousand atheists will descend upon the Austin area."

Dutch Baptists stress evangelism

EMMEN — Dutch Baptists, meeting at Emmen for their 104th annual convention, appointed a new Union evangelist, Chris Eijer, and welcomed a new member church, located at Goes.

A motion from the church of Kollumerswaag, stressing the necessity of evangelism and appealing to the member churches to seek and find new ways and possibilities, was also accepted.

Interest in occult growing

LONDON, ENGLAND (EP) — Britain is in the midst of the biggest explosion of interest in the occult in a century, according to Marian Green, a writer on the occult. People are turning to witchcraft, astrology, and magic, apparently in response to current social problems.

"It is the biggest occult explosion in Britain since the 1880's," said Green. Readership of Prediction magazine has reached about 20,000, she said, and a recent occult festival drew 5,000 people.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory September 26—October 25,

A portion of the Village view is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many group and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39213

Christmas
- 1984 -

From "Mississippi's largest family", to you and your family, hearty greetings of the season and warmest wishes for a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy and good health. It is our prayer that the bounty of your holiday table will be equalled only by your consciousness of God's abundant love.

For the 25th consecutive year it is my favored responsibility to greet you on behalf of hundreds of special children who live with those of us who are charged with their care, boys and girls who depend upon you, their unknown Christian friends. As their spokesperson, I happily thank you at this happy time of year for your unselfish friendship during 1984.

As Christmas invades your hearth and home with its reminders of spiritual and emotional strengths which make your home safe, and with material plenty which makes your holiday merry; I hope you will recall the needs of Village boys and girls in your Christmas prayer and your Christmas giving. Use the enclosed envelope, if you will, to make a contribution to The Village's HOLIDAY FUND. You will thereby brighten the eyes and lift the heart of a Village girl or boy - and - more importantly - assist us in defraying food and milk costs for more than 600 throughout the year.

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Executive Director



Baptist Record

Uniform: *A summons to decision*
Life and Work: *Joseph*
Bible Book: *God's offer of salvation*

A summons to decision

By Bobby Lee, Tupelo
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-10; 9:1-3

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-10. Someone has said that the three words of modern life are: Hurry, Worry, and Bury. The average church member would no longer sit for half a day while the Word of God was being read than he or she would to try to witness to someone. We will barely allow the preacher to read one verse of scripture for his text and then we can hardly wait for him to finish his discourse so we can be on our way. We have paid our religious dues for the week and we are anxious to get back to the business of living as usual. We have an unusual God, an unusual Bible, an unusual salvation, but we live usual lives. One church got a new pastor and one woman was asked if she liked his sermons. She replied, "I don't know. You see, he preaches exactly 30 minutes, and that is precisely the amount of time I need to plan what I am going to do the following week."

Another thing that is mentioned in these verses is that all who could understand were there listening. I wonder if sometimes we don't keep the Word from our little people long after they are able to understand.

The amazing thing is that all the people were attentive to the reading of the Word of God. Today people twist and squirm and their minds are everywhere and on everything except the Word of God. Jesus said, "Take heed how you hear." I'm afraid that too many people sit in church every Sunday and come away wondering what was said. The preacher has the responsibility to preach the Word, but the people in the pew also have a responsibility to hear that word.

We need to weep when we hear the Word of the Lord, but we also need to rejoice and take a fresh look at those around us in need and provide for that need. If the Word of God does not make us sensitive to the needs of others and give us a desire to meet those needs, then something is wrong with our brand of Christianity. As Vance Havner said, "We need to live our faith, or take down our sign."

Nehemiah 9:1-3. Sackcloth was a sign of mourning and repentance. It has been too long since we have had any desire to repent. Yet the first message that Jesus ever preached was repent. I see three things that stand out in these verses. First, there

was the reading of the Word of God. I don't care how much or how little one understands of the Bible they read, it will do you good just to read the Bible. I knew a man once who carried his Bible deer hunting with him. As he sat on his deer stand he would flip through the pages of the Bible. The amazing thing was that this man could not read. But he was a new convert and he was so in love with the Word of God that he wanted to be able to read it at all cost.

Second, I see that here was confession of sin. Someone has said, "When we confess our sins, we think we no longer have to correct them." Nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible tells us that without holiness we shall not see God. We need to confess our sins daily and God is "faithful to forgive them and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." An honest confession is good for the soul.

Third, there is worship. Most of us take worship for granted. We get up on Sunday morning and go through our ritual of getting ready to go to church. But do we take time to get ready to worship? I believe that we need to make special preparation in order to enter into worship. It is not something that we just let happen. We have to be active participants in making mental preparation in order to be able to worship him who died for us.

barrass her by breaking their betrothal with a public announcement. Rather he would let her go away quietly.

Then Matthew tells us God spoke to him, explained that the child indeed was of God, and asked him to marry Mary and take care of the child because he was to be the Messiah. Without any hesitation Joseph obeyed God. Mary became his wife. The time of the birth coincided with the time of a census which required Joseph to be in Bethlehem, the city of his forefathers. Though Mary was not required to be there, he took her with him on the trip so he could continue to care for her. Though the secret of the child's true identity was revealed to the shepherds, the general public continued to ignore the couple and the new baby. Even the recognition by the high priest at the time of the circumcision did not make any changes in the couple's plans. They apparently settled down in Bethlehem and Joseph probably worked at his trade.

All of this was suddenly changed by the coming of the wise men. The child was several months old by this time. Many scholars feel he was around two years old at the time. Herod in a fit of jealousy ordered all the male babies two years old and younger to be killed. God sent an angel to Joseph and told him to take Mary and the child and leave that very night for Egypt. Without any hesitation Joseph again obeyed God. And Egypt once again plays a prominent role in preserving Israel. And Joseph's faith in God which led to his obedience saved the life of the Christ child.

After some time in Egypt God again sent a messenger to Joseph and told him Herod was dead and he could

take his family and return to Israel. When he returned he discovered that Archelaus, a son of Herod, was reigning in Nazareth. The family was to continue to live there until Jesus left home to enter into his public ministry.

We have only one other contact with Joseph. When Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem where he was presented in the temple according to Jewish law. After this experience we have no record of Joseph and do not hear from Jesus again until eighteen years have passed. We assume that Joseph continued to support his family, which had increased with the birth of several children to him and Mary, by working in his carpenter shop. We also assume that Jesus worked in the shop with him and was taught most of the things he learned in those years by Joseph. As he watched Jesus mature, Joseph must have taken much pride in him as any parent would. And he must have often looked back at those times in his life when God intervened in a special way.

Though he had been told that Jesus was to be the Messiah, like all other Jews he did not understand just what was involved. They all looked for an earthly kingdom to be established, with the Messiah ruling and all the nations in the world subjected to Israel. Joseph probably often wondered how a poor boy growing up in the home of a poor carpenter could ever rule the world. But I am prone to believe that though he wondered about it, he believed God would in some way bring it about. Such was the faith of this man in God.

At this particular time we would do well to examine our own faith in God. It is easy to talk about faith but as James says, there is more to faith

God's offer of salvation

By Vernon L. Sikes, Yazoo City
Isaiah 54:1-55:13

The poignancy of the chapter about the suffering servant (chapter 53) is broken by a cry of joy and comfort that paves the way to the final outburst of ultimate joy seen in chapter 55. In Isaiah's revelations, we can see him gradually building up to a pinnacle. His words of hope for the Israelites began early in the book as he told of judgment against Israel's enemies, of glorious salvation, and of a coming servant, but with chapters 54 and 55, the crescendo reaches its fullest proportion.

I. A restored people (chapter 54)

"Break out into loud and joyous song . . . enlarge your house; build on additions . . ." (54:1 and 2). Can you imagine how encouraging these words must have sounded to the future exiles who were to lose everything? After the many years of subjugation, of innumerable losses in lives and in property, they would return to their land and would "possess the cities left behind during the exile, and rule the nations that took their lands" (54:3).

The people had angered God through their rebellion, and consequently, God initiated disciplinary actions against his children. Being of moral and very stubborn minds, they were unable to understand fully why God judged them so severely. They felt abandoned by God.

Isaiah used the illustration of a wife (Judah) judicially separated from her husband (God) in vv. 4-10 to explain God's unceasing love for them. "In a moment of anger I turned my face a little while; but with everlasting love I will have pity on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer" (54:8). Though they were to go through some very trying times that would make them believe God had truly abandoned them, God's kindness and future promises of greatness would never fail (54:10).

Zion will no longer fear her enemies, for God will be as a wall of indestructible security (54:15). "She will be securely established, and her relationship with Yahweh will be as happy and joyful as that of those newly wed" (D. David Garland, Isaiah — A Study Guide, p. 102).

II. Blessings of the Messianic Age (Chapter 55)

With this chapter, the climax of Isaiah's poems outlining God's watchcare is reached. Because of God's unlimited love for all of mankind, every man, woman, and child is invited to be partakers in the blessings of the Messianic Age.

than talk. Our obedience is directly related to our faith. Most people refuse to do what God requires because they do not accept God's authority. That means they really do not believe in God. We need to rethink our belief about God. When we come to the place we accept him and his authority, we will be willing to follow his leadership and obey his commands. That is exactly what Joseph did and God was able to use him.

For generations, the people had fed upon foods that left them unsatisfied. They lived their lives with gusto, but were left with emptiness. In vv. 1-5, God was extending to them an invitation to come to his banquet which would bring satisfaction and delight to their souls. This illustration tells us of the freeness of God's salvation and of the wonderful effect it has on the lives of the recipients. He was offering "good food that fattens up the soul" (55:2).

Man-made covenants, no matter how legal they are, are only as good as the parties who enter into the agreement. God was ready to make an everlasting covenant with anyone who would approach him and he would "give . . . all the unfailing mercies and love that I (God) had for King David" (55:3). Power among nations would be theirs — not because of their own power or virtue, but because of God's glorification of them (55:5).

The Jews had hardened their hearts through years of rebellion against God. Before things got any worse, immediate action was necessary in order to find God's will for their lives (55:6). The day was rapidly coming when the repentance that was necessary before they could receive the inheritance would be impossible because of their spiritual blindness. Though they didn't understand God's workings completely or even partially, they could rest assured that God could bring it to pass (55:8).

Where can we find truth? Though many institutions and groups boast of knowing the truth about life, there is but one truth — the Word of God which is the expression of his purpose. God works his purpose, despite the obstacles. We call that miraculous. To God it is but a fulfillment of the eternal covenant of salvation that he continues to make with anyone who will turn to him.

Joseph

By Charles E. Myers, Jackson
Matthew 1:18-20; 2:13-15, 20, 22

In all of our studies about Christ and his birth through the years we have seldom ever said much about Joseph. Mary is mentioned often, at times revered by some, but Joseph is relegated to a very minor place if he is mentioned at all. There are several reasons for this. One, he is not the real father of the child, while Mary was the mother. The New Testament writers say very little about him and never mention him again after the appearance of Jesus in the temple at the age of twelve. But God used this man in an unusual way. He was able to use him because he was a man of faith and obedience. It is altogether fitting that we study this man as we prepare to observe Christmas.

Luke simply places Joseph in his story without giving us any details about him. Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham down to Joseph and introduces us to him in this manner. He tells us he was betrothed to Mary. This means the couple had gone through a public ceremony declaring their intentions to be married. It was a sacred commitment they were making and the pledge taken was as unto God. Then suddenly Mary turns up pregnant. He assumed her to be a virgin but apparently she was not. He also knew he was not the father. No one knows how deeply hurt and disappointed he must have been. She tried to explain to him that she had not been unfaithful and that the child was of God. He simply could not accept that but because he loved her so much he would not em-

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